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Parents、Friends、Future
Their Relationship---
They haven t reached
the conclusion about th
It's a pitiful and
distressed youth

木尾士目
Kio Shimoku

五年生

"The 5th Grade"

Sama Yoshino & Shino Akio The Story is close to you

五年生

The 5th Grade

5

木尾士目

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五年生

"The 5th Grade"
Soma Youhino & Shima Akio The Story is close to you

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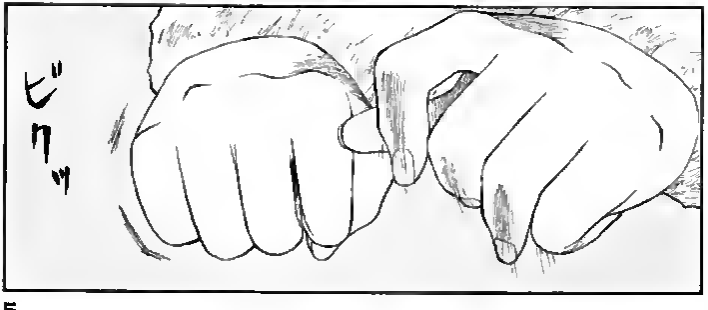
Kio Shimoku

Chapter 25 - Intersection II

YEAH, SURE IT'S NICE TO HAVE LAWS
BUT WHAT CAN THEY DO FOR YOU WHEN A CRIME'S ACTUALLY BEING COMMITTED?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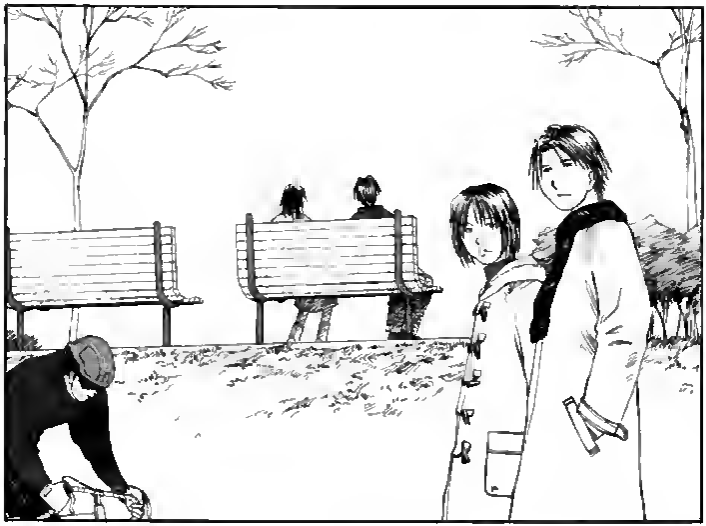

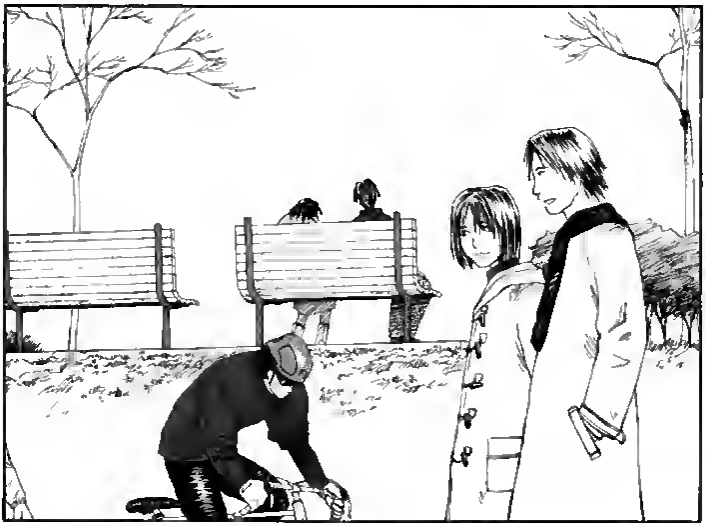

WELL THINK ABOUT IT WHEN YOU SEE THE KNIFE COMING AT YOU OR THE RAPIST HAS YOU CORNERED IN A DARK ALLEY
WHAT CAN LAWS DO TO PREVENT WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN AT THAT MOMENT?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YUP THAT INSTANT JUST BEFORE THE GUY'S FIST HITS YOUR FACE
YOU REALLY HAVE NO TIME WHATSOEVER?
WHAT AN ARBITRARY SITUATION
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD TRY AND APPEAL TO COMMON SENSE BY STATING WHICH LAW IS ABOUT TO BE BROKEN AND EMPHASIZING THE SEVERITY OF THE PUNISHMENT.
BUT IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE THAT SNAP JUDGMENT
IF YOU HAD EVEN A LITTLE TIME TO TRY AND DO SOMETHING.
HUH REALLY?
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
THEN, NOTHING.

WOULD IT WORK IN A REAL LIFE SITUATION?
I'D SAY THAT DEPENDS ON THE PEOPLE INVOLVED THEIR ABILITY TO THINK ON THEIR FEET AND THEIR NEGOTIATION SKILLS
OKAY THEN
SO, SAY FOR A MOMENT WE'VE GOT SOMEONE WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO PULL THAT OFF
YOSHINO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT THIS PERSON COULD USE THE LAW EVEN AT THE MOMENT A CRIME'S ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE TO STOP IT?
THAT LAWS THEMSELVES CAN HAVE POWER?
HMM...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
WHAT, ARE YOU TRYING TO SHOW ME THAT LAWS ARE USELESS, SO I SHOULD STOP STUDYING THEM?
NAH, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT

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WHETHER IT'S A CIVIL CASE OR A CRIMINAL ONE, THERE'S ALWAYS A MOMENT WHERE THE PEOPLE'S RESOLVE, OR THEIR PASSION, BURNS BRIGHTEST
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT AT THAT MOMENT THEY'RE AT THEIR STRONGEST
ARE YOU SAYING THAT SOME WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO BRING THAT TO A STOP?
WELL, YOU'RE CERTAINLY SURE OF YOURSELF

ガッ
カニ

...WELL
HERE'S WHAT I THINK.
I THINK THAT LAWS CAN HAVE MANY DIFFERENT ASPECTS
THEY ACT AS RESTRAINTS, AS LUBRICANT TO KEEP THE WORLD ROLLING ON AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE
AND EVEN AS PURE POWER THAT PREVENTS CRIME THROUGH DETERRENCE
SO IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE A NECESSARY EVIL
SORT OF LIKE MILITARY MIGHT TO GIVE ANOTHER EXTREME EXAMPLE
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST PUT YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR FACE AND SHY AWAY FROM THEM JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE SCARY

EVEN IF WE SOMEHOW ACHIEVED A TOTALLY PACIFIST SOCIETY, THAT FACT WOULDN'T CHANGE
IN A PERFECT WORLD THEY WOULDN'T EVEN EXIST. BUT IN THIS ONE, THEY'LL NEVER DISAPPEAR
AH, THAT MUST BE WHY...
WORDS THEMSELVES ARE SO VIOLENT
YOU MEAN VERBAL ABUSE?
THAT TOO. BUT NOT JUST THAT. I MEAN WORDS THEMSELVES
OKAY, YOU OFFICIALLY LOST ME. I DON'T GET IT.
THAT'S OKAY AS LONG AS I UNDERSTAND

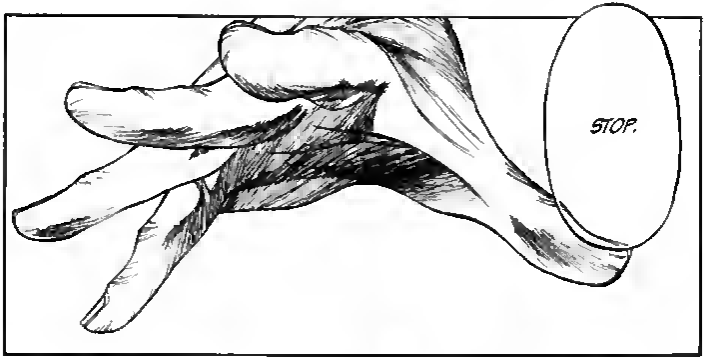
WELL
YOU JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT TO ME, DIDN'T YOU?
AT LEAST, I THINK I REMEMBER THAT HAPPENING A LOT
IN THE BEGINNING, WE AT LEAST ATTEMPTED TO TALK. WE WERE CLUMSY, AND AWKWARD. BUT WE SPOKE TO EACH OTHER
HAHA

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN BELIEVE IN WORDS AKIO.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THINGS.
I'M NOT GOING TO SAY A SINGLE WORD!
AND THAT'S WHY NOW...

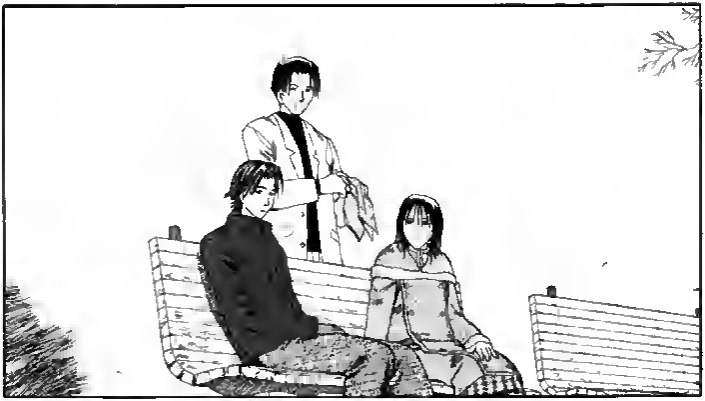
Just for now

Who are you?
Who do you think you are!
Who_

YOU...
ぐっ

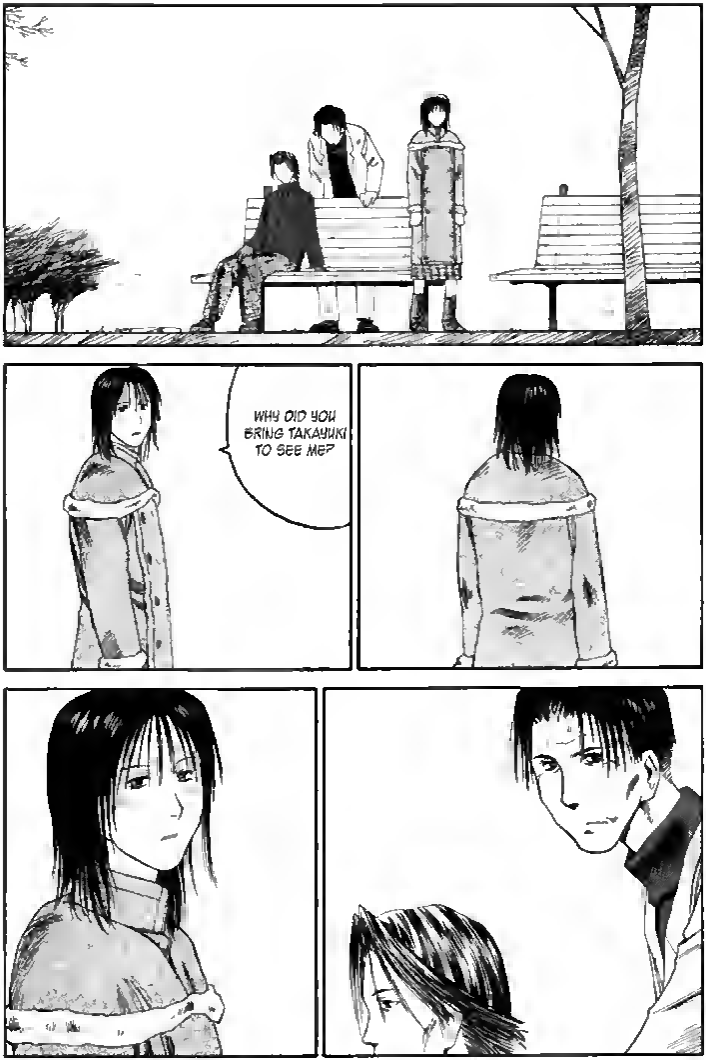

STOP.

.....
HOW...?!
TAKAYUKI TOLD ME.

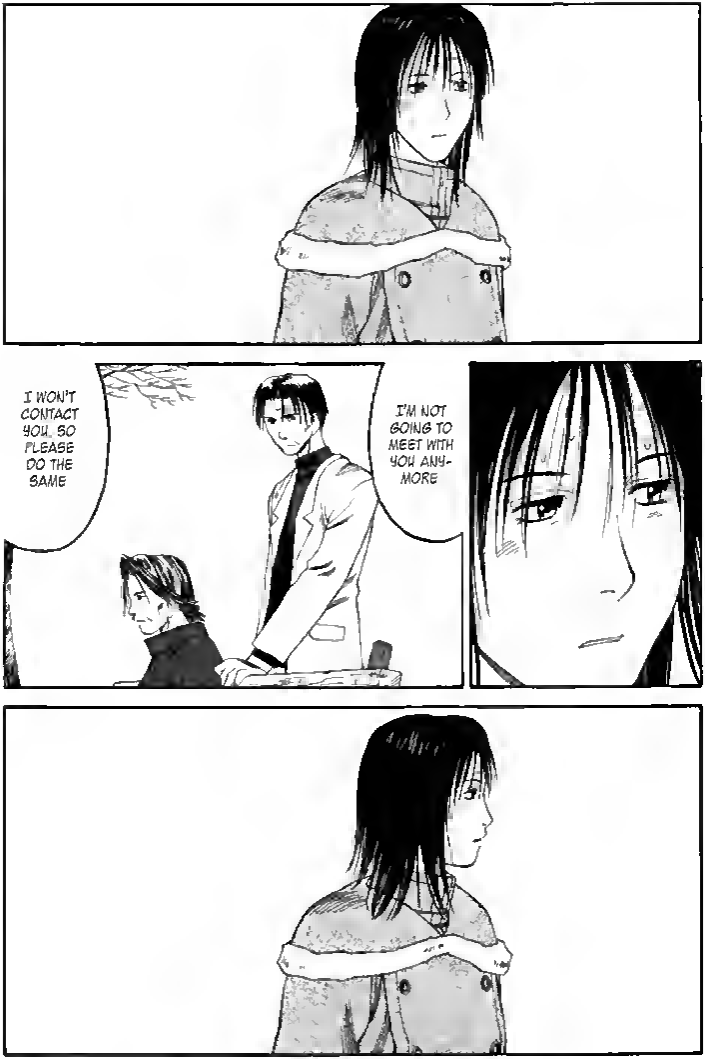


THEY'VE COME BACK?
THE WORDS

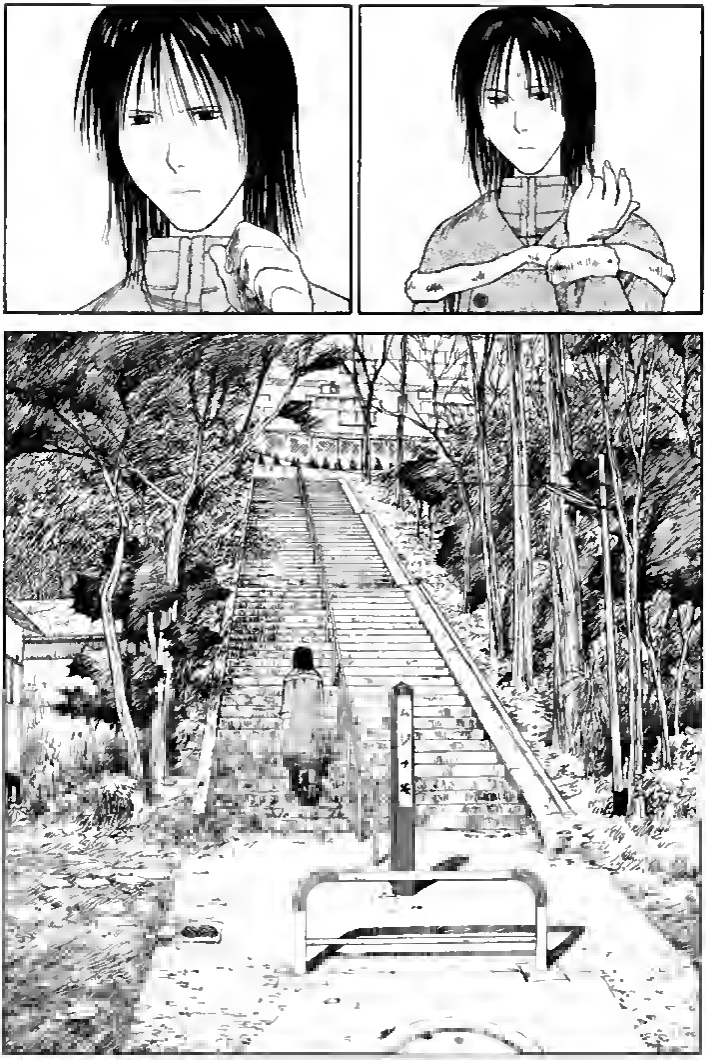
I'M SORRY
I I PUT YOU IN DANGER
I'LL MAKE A PROPER APOLOGY THE NEXT TIME WE MEET
BUT FOR NOW
...NEXT TIME?


WHY DID YOU BRING TAKAYUKI TO SEE ME?

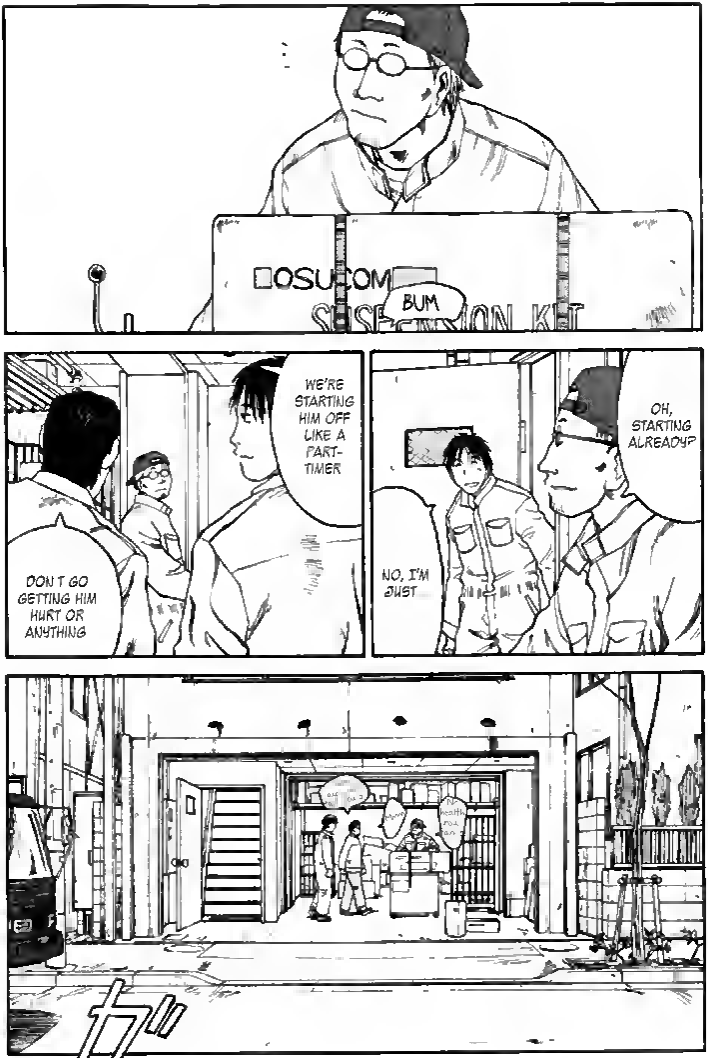
I'D HOPED
THAT THE TWO OF YOU WOULD BECOME FRIENDS
THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE

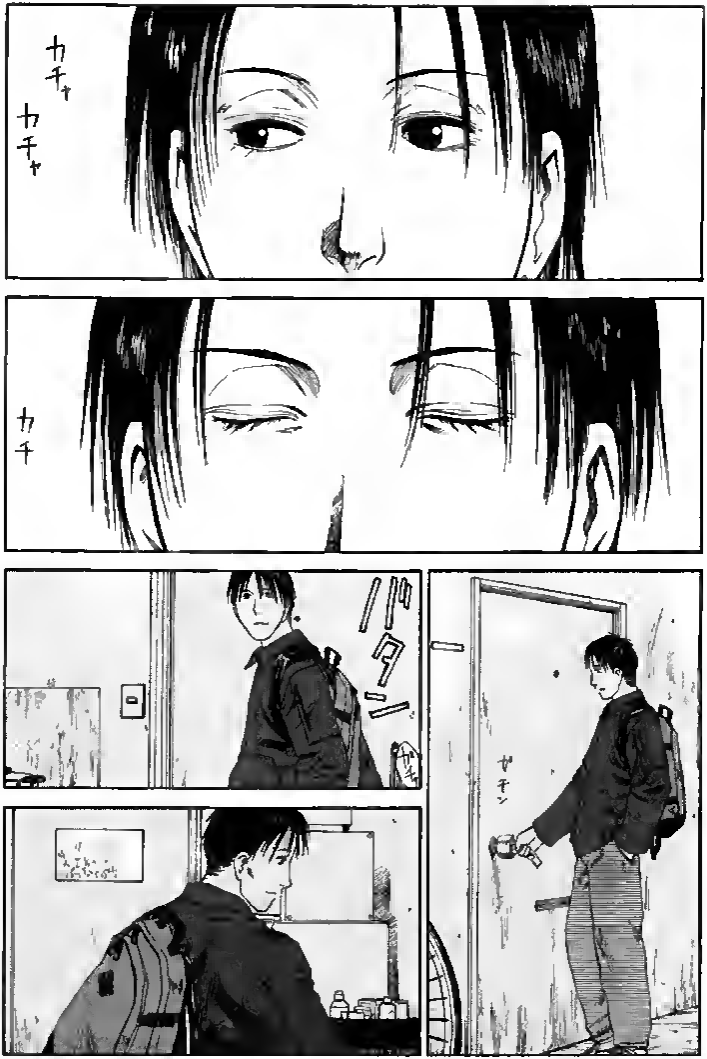

I'M NOT GOING TO MEET WITH YOU ANY-MORE
I WON'T CONTACT YOU, SO PLEASE DO THE SAME

GOODBYE.



Chapter 26 - Witch II


BUM
WE'RE STARTING HIM OFF LIKE A PART-TIMER
DON'T GO GETTING HIM HURT OR ANYTHING
OH, STARTING ALREADY?
NO, I'M JUST


カチャ
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ガララ
WELCOME BACK!
SO HOW WAS IT?
ぽてん
IT WAS PRETTY HECTIC
HEYA
MAN, IT'S WARM IN HERE...
THEY'VE GOT YOU WORKING ALREADY?
NAH, I'M ONLY OFFICIALLY AN EMPLOYEE STARTING FROM APRIL
BUT THEY'VE GOT ME LEARNING THE ROPES AND STUFF LIKE A PART-TIMER

OH, OKAY
OH, AND I STARTED THE RICE COOKER A little while ago
SO YOU'RE GOING FROM TEMP TO A FULL-TIME POSITION?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I GUESS?
TIRED TODAY?
WELL YEAH, THEY HAD ME LIFTING BOXES ALL DAY LONG
HAHAHA
MAN, TOUCHING YOUR BODY JUST GIVES ME STRENGTH, YOU KNOW?

WHAT A SHAME IF YOU WERE TIRED I'D HAVE DONE SOMETHING NICE FOR YOU
AHAHA
Abs of steel huh?
BUT I'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF EXERCISE LATELY SO IT WASN'T SO BAD KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HMPH
REALLY NOW?
WHOA WELL... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I'M REALLY FOOFED
HUH? RIGHT NOW?
ALRIGHT THEN, SIT DOWN ♡
OKAY I GET THE IDEA
Hahaha
BUT EITHER WAY, YOSHIMURA...

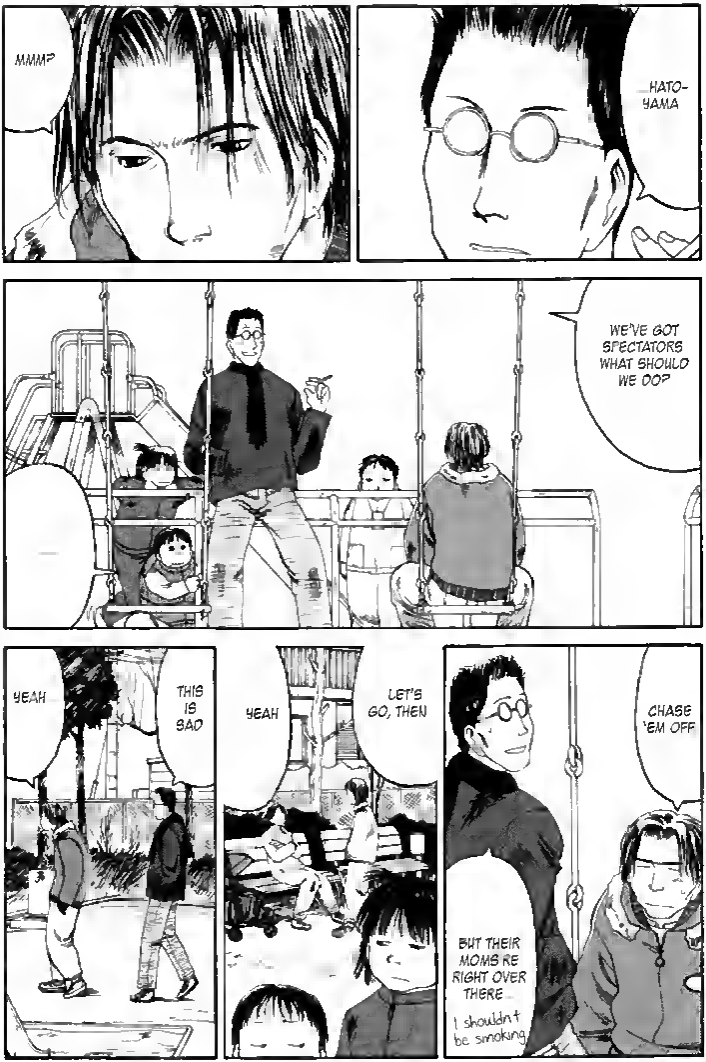
WE HAVEN'T EVEN HAD DINNER YET!
WHAT?
I DON'T MIND
HEY... ACTUALLY
I WAS THINKING OF TA-KING A BATH
WITH YOUR MOUTH?!
I'LL STOP AFTER YOU COME OUCE, IT'LL ONLY BE A MO-MENT
I'll be done before the rice is ready
THAT'S EVEN WORSE!
BEFORE? OR AFTER?
HMM?
OH, SO YOU MEAN, DURING
LET THE HOT WATER SEEP IN, YOU KNOW?
WELL I MEAN, I WANT TO REALLY SOAK IN THE TUB

I GUESS THAT'D MAKE ME LIKE A SOAP-LAND PROSTITUTE, HUH?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
MMM
IT'S A GOOD THING I DIDN'T STAY WITH THAT EX OF MINE
I wouldn't have made it into college
THAT'S QUITE A DEMAND, YOU KNOW
I MEAN I FIGURE SINCE YOU'RE OFFERING AND ALL...
Gotta fill up the tub

Hah
Ah
Ah
Mmh
Aah
Haa
Mmh
ぱんがんぱんぱんぱんぱんぱん
I love you. Hato yuuna.
Me too.

はあっ
はあっ
I LOVE YOU!
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!

I THINK WHEN A WOMAN FALLS IN LOVE WITH A MAN,
EVEN AFTER SHE MOVES ON, SHE NEVER REALLY FALLS OUT OF LOVE
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?
BUT I CAN'T STOP COMPARING MYSELF TO THE GUY SHE USED TO HAVE A THING FOR
SHE TELLS ME SHE LOVES ME OVER AND OVER,
IT'S ME THAT'S THE PROBLEM
WELL, I GUESS THAT DOESN'T MATTER
HMM
YOU THINK SO?

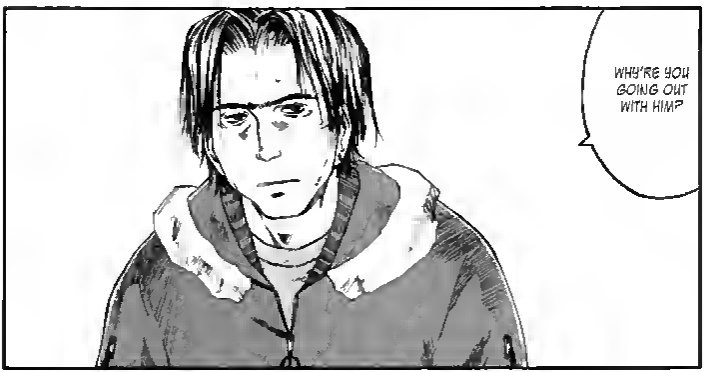

MMM?
HATO-YAMA
WE'VE GOT SPECTATORS WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
YEAH
THIS IS SAD
YEAH
LET'S GO, THEN
CHASE 'EM OFF
BUT THEIR MOMS RE RIGHT OVER THERE...
I shouldn't be smoking.

IT'S COLD...
UGH
HMM?
OOOH
OH

HUH
SMALL WORLD, AIN'T IT
MAN THE WAY YOU ALL ARE JUST TANGLED TOGETHER IT'S LIKE A VIDEO GAME
WHEN'D THAT HAPPEN?
WELL, I GUESS THEY ARE
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE LIKE THAT

GAH! FUCK YOU, MAN!
SO I GUESS THIS MEANS SHIMA'S PLUGGING THE HOLE YOU LEFT BEHIND EH?
Hehehehaha.

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT WORK
WO-RRIED?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I WAS JUST THINKING AM I REALLY THE TYPE TO WORK A NINE TO FIVE?
EVERYONE HAS THOUGHTS LIKE THAT, ESPECIALLY THESE DAYS


WHY'RE YOU GOING OUT WITH HIM?

フォ
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU WERE LYING IN WAIT FOR ME...
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT STOP SHOPPING HERE
LOOK THIS IS PROBABLY AN OVERUSED LINE BUT IT FITS THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYMORE
YOU'RE SEEING HER, ANYWAY

YOU DUMPED ME AND GOT WHAT YOU WANTED, DIDN'T YOU? WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
AKIO?
WHY HIM?
OH!
SO THAT'S IT
HAHA I GET IT NOW

YOU FEEL LIKE HE'S TAKEN BOTH THE WOMEN WHO WERE YOURS, DON'T YOU?
SHUT UP
WHAT, IS KAYA STILL CARRYING A TORCH FOR AKIO?
OF COURSE NOT
AND IT'S NOT LIKE SEX IS SOMETHING YOU CAN PLAN OUT AHEAD OF TIME, ANYWAY
NOT EVEN I'VE FALLEN SO FAR AS TO USE SEX AS A WEAPON.
YOU DID THIS ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, YOU KNOW THAT? YOU DID THE ONE THING THAT'D HURT BOTH OF US THE MOST

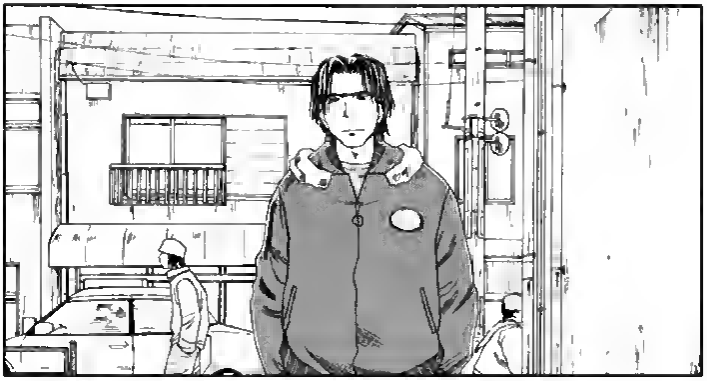
I SLEPT WITH AKIO BECAUSE I WANTED TO!
WAS HE GOOD?
AT FIRST. WELL, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BECAUSE HIS LAST GIRL-FRIEND WAS SOMA,
BUT HE WAS PRETTY HESITANT.
BUT NOW, WELL
...HAHAH I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU, DO I?

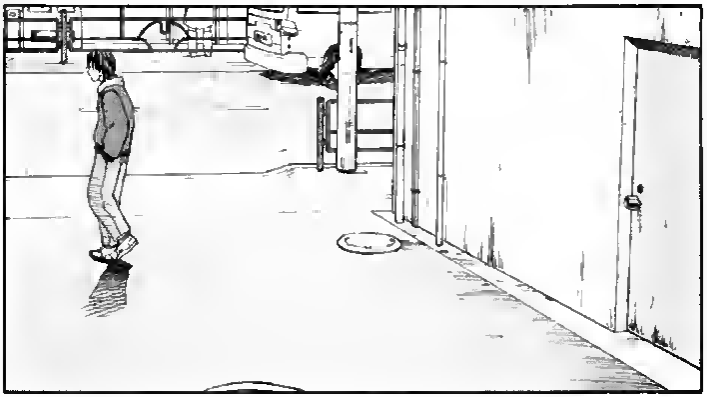
ARE YOU REMEMBERING WHAT IT WAS LIKE WITH ME?
WELL, TOO BAD!
YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE LIVE WITH IT!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING CHASING ME DOWN AFTER ALL THIS TIME? YOU MADE YOUR DECISION
YOU SHOULD STICK TO IT
WHAT YOU HAVE REGRETS? BUT EVEN THOSE ARE ABOUT MY BODY, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE JEALOUS OF AKIO, ISN'T IT?
PATHETIC!

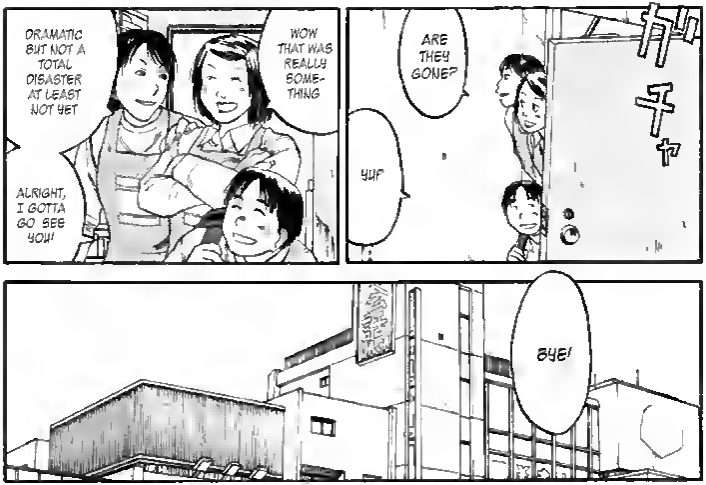
WE'LL BE GRADUATING SOON AND THEN WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN
THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT ME, RIGHT?
Hmph
SHUT YOUR MOUTH ALREADY
WHAT IF I CHANGED MY MIND ON MY CHOICE?
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

NO CHANCE AT ALL?
NONE.
BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE EVERY THING GOING BACK TO NORMAL LIKE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE FIRST PLACE?
NORMAL? YOU'RE JUST FOLLOWING WHAT YOUR FEELINGS TELL YOU
THERE YOU GO AGAIN WITH YOUR USELESS HYPOTHE-TICALS
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU AND SHIMA HAVE PRO-BLEMS, TOO
EVERYONE HAS THEIR PROBLEMS, BUT WE MAKE DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE

I NEED TO ASK THIS
WHAT?
WAIT
I'M LEA-VING
DO YOU REALLY LOVE HIM?
YES.



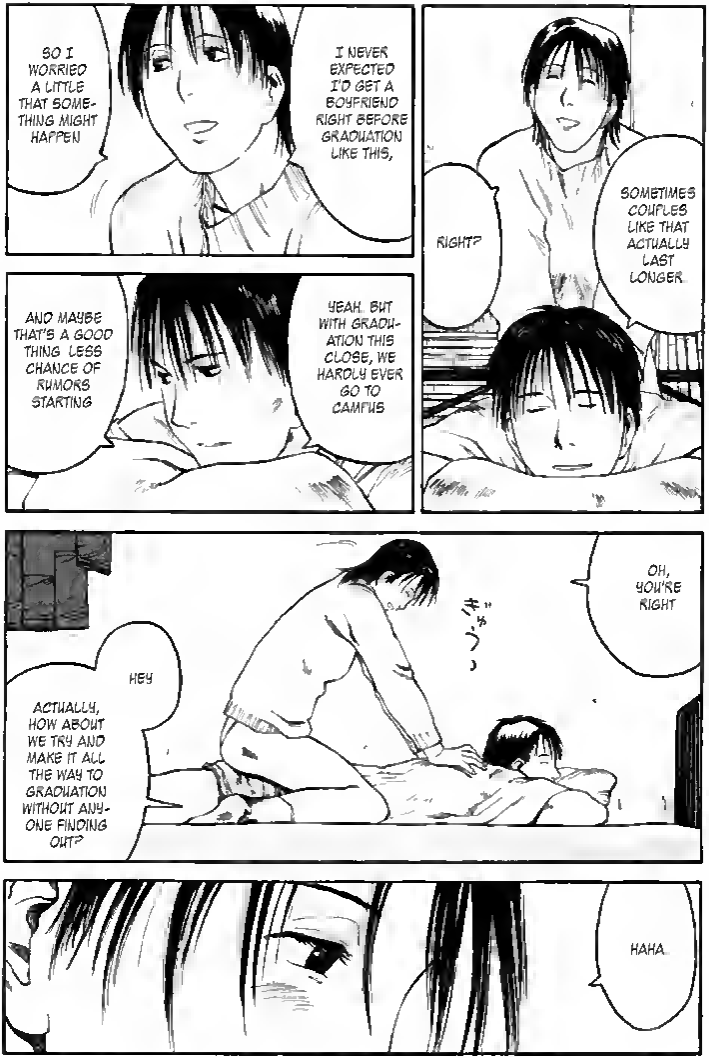


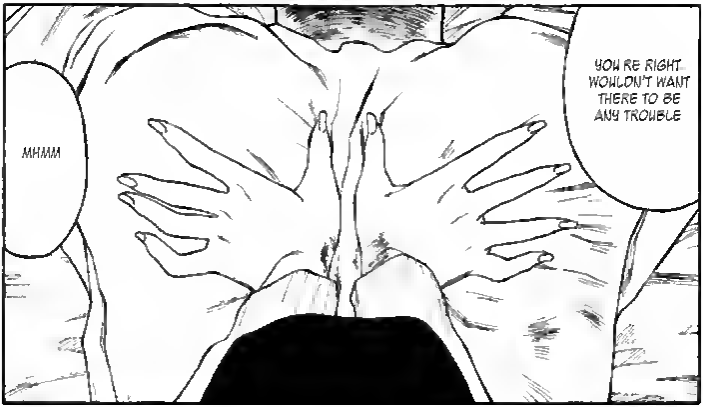

DRAMATIC BUT NOT A TOTAL DISASTER AT LEAST NOT YET
WOW THAT WAS REALLY SOME-THING
ALRIGHT, I GOTTA GO SEE YOU!
ARE THEY GONE?
YUP
ガチャ
BYE!

AHHH
OOH
OHH MAN

DOES IT FEEL GOOD?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA...
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE REALLY BEEN TRAINED IT PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH EFFECT
MEN SQUEEZE TOO HARD IT HURTS I'LL PASS
I'LL DO IT FOR YOU TOO AFTER THIS
BUT IT FEELS SO GOOD...
IT MUST BE THE LOVE
HAHAHA, THAT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HORNY
AND IT FEELS BEST WHERE YOU'RE SITTING ON ME

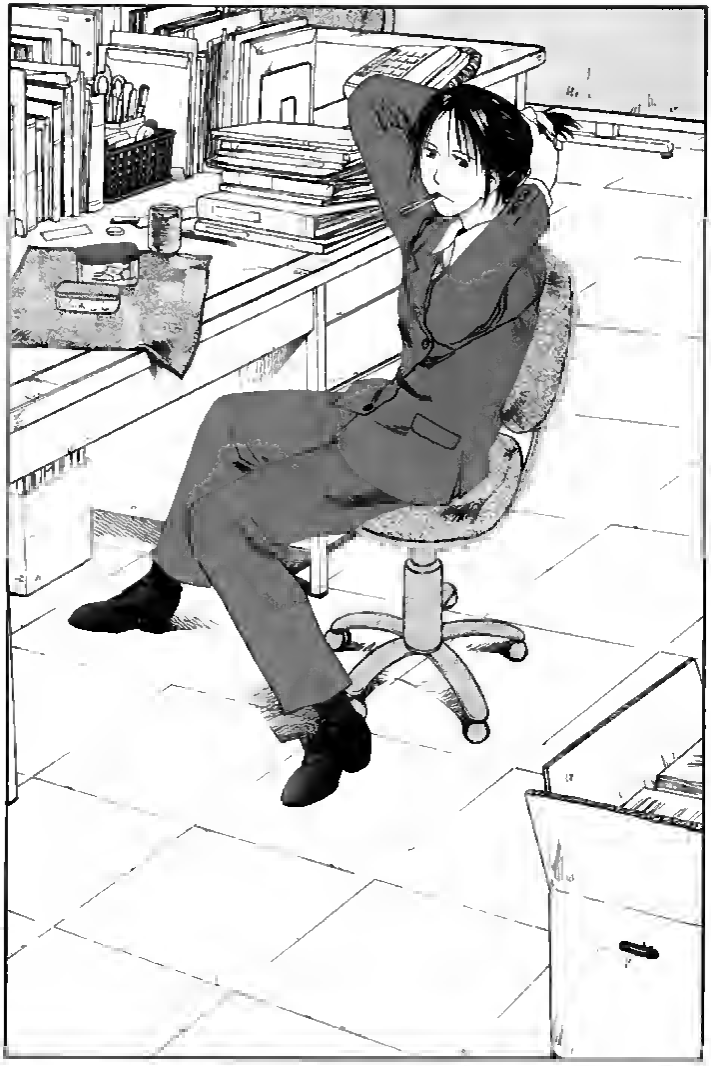
Oof
HEY SO ANYWAY, I WAS THINK-ING
WHAT ABOUT AFTER WE GRAD-UATE?
HMM?
WELL WE'VE GOT TO SEE EACH OTHER AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK, RIGHT?
WELL YEAH, THAT'S FINE WITH ME I MEAN, IT'LL HAVE TO BE A LONG-DISTANCE RELATION-SHIP AND ALL
MMM
WELL, WE KIND OF JUST BLUNDERED INTO SEEING EACH OTHER, DIDN'T WE?
SO LET'S NOT RUSH THAT PART OF OUR RELATION-SHIP BI-THER
NO USE TRYING TO FORCE OURSELVES TO STAY TOGETHER
HMM


I NEVER EXPECTED I'D GET A BOYFRIEND RIGHT BEFORE GRADUATION LIKE THIS,
SO I WORRIED A LITTLE THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN
SOMETIMES COUPLES LIKE THAT ACTUALLY LAST LONGER.
RIGHT?
YEAH. BUT WITH GRADUATION THIS CLOSE, WE HARDLY EVER GO TO CAMPUS
AND MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING. LESS CHANCE OF RUMORS STARTING
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT
HEY
ACTUALLY, HOW ABOUT WE TRY AND MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO GRADUATION WITHOUT ANYONE FINDING OUT?
HAHA.


MHMM
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WOULDN'T WANT THERE TO BE ANY TROUBLE

WHY IF SOMEONE FOUND OUT ABOUT US

OH, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THEN
Hah
Hahah
C'MON, DON'T JINX IT!



Chapter 27 - Witch III

WHAT?
THEY'RE DATING? REALLY?
WHAT THE HELL?!
DON'T LOOK AT ME IT CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE TOO
BUT IT'S TRUE
WHAT THE HELL!
THAT'S CRAZY!
THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH THEM!

IT'S JUST WRONG IT MAKES ME SICK...
AND I'M SORRY TO SPRING THIS ON YOU, BUT
OH, YEAH.
DO YOU WANT TO BREAK UP?

HUH?
WHAT?
I CAN'T FORGET YOSHI-MURA
I JUST CAN'T...
WHY...
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

AND I DON'T WANT HER SLEEPING WITH ANYONE ELSE
I FELT SO JEALOUS SEEING THEM TOGETHER, I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT
TO BE HONEST, SHE'S A BIT OF A SLUT,
AND I REALLY LIKE WOMEN LIKE THAT.
I THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE CRAZY, TOO
WHO TELLS THEIR GIRL-FRIEND THAT KIND OF THING?
.....
WHY NOT?
AND BE-SIDES,
I JUST DON'T THINK WE'LL WORK OUT

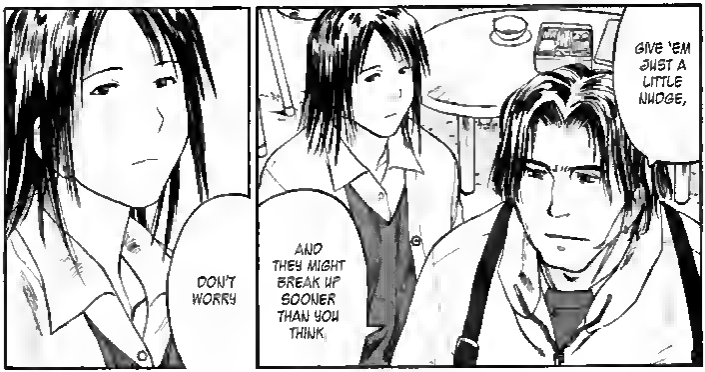
WELL, THERE WAS THAT TIME THAT I

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO SHAPE UP,
BUT TO BE FRANK, I THINK I MIGHT END UP DOING IT AGAIN
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR US TO JUST BREAK UP...?
.....
.....

THEN THAT MEANS...
I REALLY NEVER WAS ANYTHING MORE THAN A DIVERSION FOR YOU, HUH
I'M SORRY
IT'S ALRIGHT
BUT I WAS THINKING OF BREAKING UP WITH YOU, TOO
YOU PROBABLY KNEW THIS ALREADY,

SORRY
IT'S OKAY

BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THEY'RE ALREADY SEEING EACH OTHER, AREN'T THEY?
YEAH, BUT I KINDA GET THE FEELING IT'S NOT ALL JUST SUN-SHINE AND ROSES WITH THEM


GIVE 'EM JUST A LITTLE NUDGE,
AND THEY MIGHT BREAK UP SOONER THAN YOU THINK.
DON'T WORRY

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ME?
YOU KNOW, YOU AND SHIMA
OH...
THINGS'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW
DOESN'T THAT APPLY TO ME, TOO?
HAHAHA GOOD LUCK
HAH...
BYE
ガチャ
ESPECIALLY NOW I KNOW HE'S THE TYPE WHO'D SLEEP WITH SOMEONE LIKE HER
I DON'T CARE THAT MUCH ANYMORE
OKAY...

"THINGS'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW"? BULLSHIT
Don't you realize what those two dating means?
How can you be so blind?

It means she's planning on tearing down everything in her wake.
Before she leaves Kisarazu.
Everything she ever touched, these past four years.

And then Koji...
AHAHAHA

FREAK
And of course, that means that last of all...

HUH?
I GUESS IN A WAY, THAT MEANS...
...THAT I'M BROKEN, TOO
MEN ARE STARTING TO LOSE THEIR MEANING TO ME

I SAID, I'M LEAVING YOU, AKIO

WHAT?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
DATING YOU WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A MEANS TO AN END
IS WHAT IT MEANS
I WANTED TO SHOW OURSELVES OFF TO HATOYAMA AND HONDA
I WAS HOPING IT'D DRIVE THEM TO BREAK UP, YOU SEE
AND SURPRISE SURPRISE, SEEMS LIKE THEY DID
OH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
THEY KNOW ABOUT US

SORRY FOR TRICKING YOU
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLANS TO KEEP THIS GOING AFTER GRADUATION
I'M REALLY SORRY
BUT YOU HAD FUN TOO, RIGHT?
SO I GUESS IT'S ALRIGHT
AND NOW THAT THEY'RE SPLIT UP, THAT MEANS THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO SEE YOU ANY LONGER, AKIO
SO LET'S BREAK UP, TOO

WHAT'RE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T TOUCH ME!

HUH...?
WHAT?
HEY.
SERI-OUSLY?
BYE

SO SO YOU'RE TELLING ME
MHMM
ARE YOU TELLING ME IT WAS ALL A LIE
WHOA! HOLD ON A SEC!
JUST WAIT A MINUTE
WHY THE FUCK WOULD YOU DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS?!
YOU WERE LYING?!
WHAT...?
LOOK I WOULDN'T HAVE SLEPT WITH YOU IF I DIDN'T LIKE YOU AT LEAST A LITTLE
SO LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT, OKAY?

IT WAS ALL AN ACT? SURE WHATEVER! BUT WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, PULLING SHIT LIKE THIS AND THEN TURNING AROUND AND GETTING MAD AT ME?!
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?!
HOW THE HELL COULD I JUST ACCEPT THAT?!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?! NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T DO SHIT LIKE THIS!
I'M JUST A SLUT, THAT'S ALL
NO, I'M NOT STUPID
SEX IS ALL THERE EVER WAS BETWEEN US IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT YOU TOOK THAT AND RAN WITH IT
THAT'S ALL YOU CARED ABOUT WHEN YOU STARTED SEEING ME, RIGHT?

WHAT?
THAT'S ALL
BUT THAT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH FOR ME
IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU LOVE ME, I WON'T TELL YOU YOU'RE WRONG
...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU? THE SEX?
I'LL CONVINCE YOU
WAIT A SECOND
OKAY, THEN

I'LL TRY AND MAKE IT EASY TO UNDERSTAND
?!
WHAT THE FUCK?!
HEY!
HEY, I SAID STOP IT!
HEY... WAIT! STOP IT! I mean it
ARE, ARE YOU TRYING TO DISTRACT ME?!
?

IF YOU WERE LEAVING ME AND I WANTED YOU TO STAY THEN MAYBE YOU'D BE RIGHT
BUT THIS ISN'T THAT
カチャカチャ
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL
I'M GIVING YOU ONE LAST CHOICE
HUH?
JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO!
I SAID WAIT, DAMMIT!
HOW THE HELL IS THIS SUPPOSED TO DECIDE WHETHER WE BREAK UP OR NOT?!
BZZT, WRONG AGAIN
A CHOICE?
WHAT KIND OF CHOICE?!

?
THIS ISN'T ABOUT US BREAKING UP OR NOT
THIS IS THE ONLY CHOICE YOU HAVE LEFT TO YOU ANY-MORE, AKIO.
IT'S A CHOICE OF WHETHER YOU LET ME DO *THIS* AND LEAVE, OR DO *NOTHING* AND LEAVE
AFTER ALL, THIS IS THE ONLY KIND OF DECISION YOU'VE BEEN MAKING SO FAR.
AND IT'S ALSO THE ONLY CHOICE YOU DESERVE
YOU'VE BEEN DESTROYING EVERY OTHER CHOICE WITH YOUR OWN ACTIONS

THIS WAS ALL YOU EVER WANTED FROM ME
BUT YOU NEVER TRIED FOR ANYTHING DEEPER, AKIO YOU ONLY EVER SAW THE SURFACE
I WENT INTO THIS WILLING TO REALLY START A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU, IF THAT WAS WHAT IT LED TO
AM I WRONG?

THAT'S WHY THIS IS THE ONLY CHOICE YOU DESERVE TO HAVE
YOU THINK SO TOO, RIGHT?

バシャバシャ
ガラ ガラ

FEEL BETTER NOW?
ポン ポン

LIFE MUST BE SO SIMPLE FOR MEN I'M KIND OF JEALOUS
ガチャ

I'LL PROBABLY
BE THIS WAY
FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE

Chapter 28 - Line of Regression

ピッ
ピッ

MOM?

ボッ
ぱたぱたぱた
カナカナカナ
OH, YOU'RE UP
HEY SHISH

HAHA.
YOUR HAIR...
HM?
HEY.
YUP, I DYED IT ON TOP OF THAT
NOT BAD, HUH?
WOW, YOU DYED IT SO LIGHT
IT'S NOT JUST A BLEACH JOB, IS IT?
MMM. Yeah, you're right.
MY HAIR IS PRETTY THICK NATURALLY SO I THINK IT'S NICE THAT IT GOT A LITTLE THINNER WITH THE DYE JOB TOO
HMM YOU LOOK SOFTER NOW, SOMEHOW
HAHAHA WHAT, I USED TO LOOK HARD OR SOMETHING?

HAHAHA
WHAT, DO I LOOK THAT GOOD?
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY AND BLEACH MY HAIR TOO
HMM
HUH, OKAY
HMM, I THINK THEY WENT SHOPPING TOGETHER
OH, WHERE'S MOM AND DAD?

ばたん
Hmm

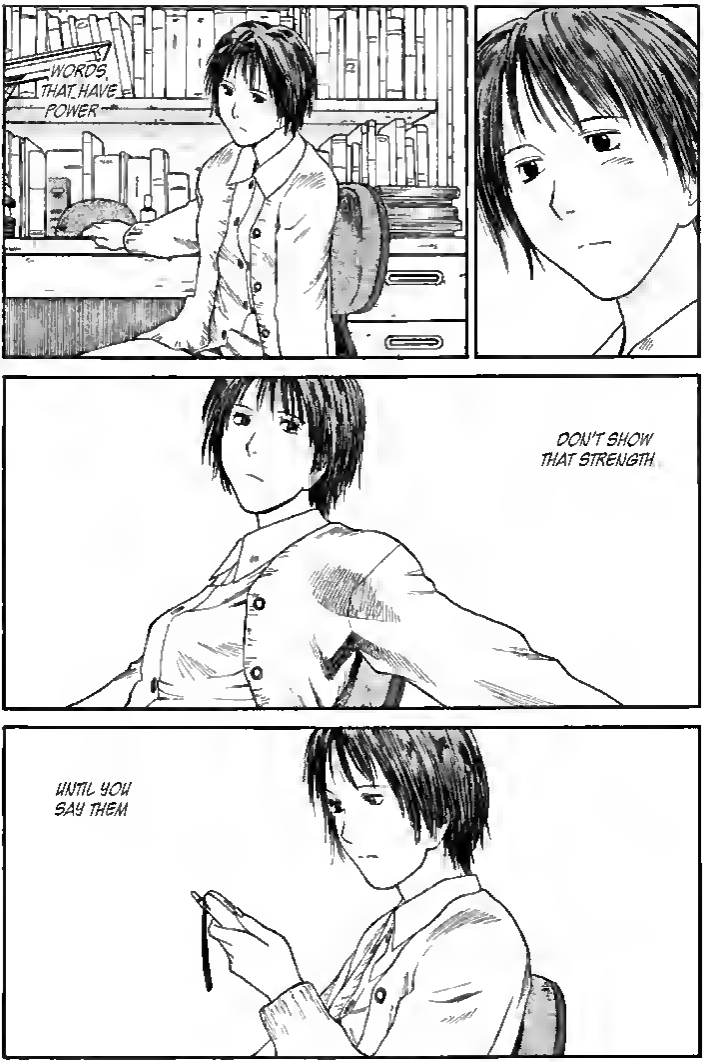
HMM.
I WANTED TO FEEL A BIT BRIGHTER
THIS IS AN EVEN LIGHTER SHADE OF BROWN THAN MINE
OH, DID SHE NOW?
MY LITTLE SISTER ACTUALLY SAID THE SAME THING
YOU TOO, MS. SAKUMA?
MAYBE I SHOULD LIGHTEN IT UP A LITTLE, TOO
OF COURSE
MS. SAKUMA, IF YOU COULD HAVE THIS DONE BY THE AFTERNOON
GOOD MORNING
HELLO, SIR

I THOUGHT HE'D SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT
HE DOESN'T CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THINGS LIKE THAT.
ガヤ
IT'S NO-THING
YES, MR. NA-RITA?

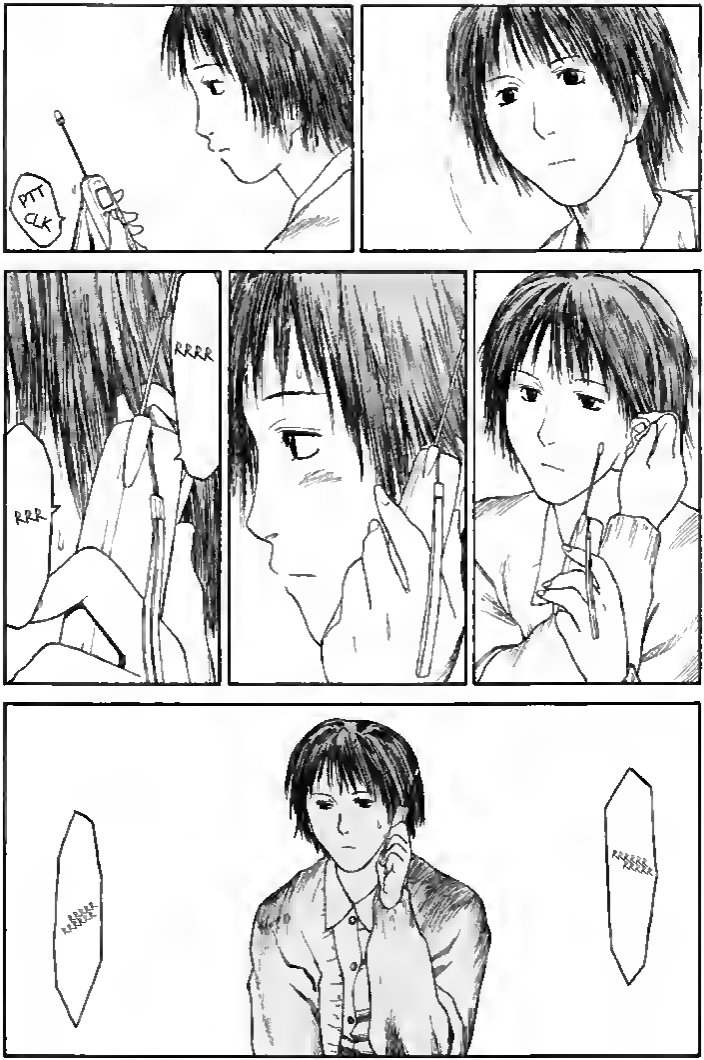
ぽん
ぽん
ぽん
ぴぴっ
Whew

MAYBE I SHOULD TRY GIVING AKIO A CALL..

I JUST WANT TO TELL HIM SOME THINGS
I'M NOT LOOKING TO PUT THINGS BACK THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE. I JUST WANT TO LET HIM KNOW I'M SORRY.
I GUESS IT MIGHT BE NO USE AT THIS POINT WAIT, NO
AND THAT I DON'T HATE HIM
THAT I'VE STOPPED SEEING MR. HASEGAWA
"HEY LOOK, SORRY I TOOK SO LONG TO CALL YOU"
"HOW'VE YOU BEEN LATELY?"
"OH, HELLO? HI, IT'S ME, SOMA YOSHINO. REMEMBER ME?"


WORDS, THAT HAVE POWER
DON'T SHOW THAT STRENGTH
UNTIL YOU SAY THEM

HAHA
HAHA
LOOK AT ME, ACTING LIKE THIS AFTER ALL THIS TIME...


PTT
CLK
RRRR
RRR

UGH, I GET THE FEELING I'M GONNA GET AN ANSWERING MACHINE
PTT
HE'S NOT HOME?
RRR
AH
YUP, I KNEW IT
THAT DUMMY
I told him to get a cell phone!
HELLO
THE PERSON YOU HAVE CALLED IS NOT AVAILABLE NOW
AT THE SOUND OF THE BEEP
BEEEEEEP
SHOULD I JUST HANG UP?
OOH...
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER, AND THE REASON FOR YOUR CALL
WHA, WHAT DO I DO?

UMM HI, IT'S SOMA YOSHINO
I'M I
I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN
I'M SORRY I WAITED SO LONG TO CALL YOU

I-I MEAN, IT'S NOT THAT SOME-THING'S HAPPENED
I JUST... I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT I'M SORRY FOR EVERY-THING I DID TO YOU

I'M REALLY SORRY
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
I'M DONE WITH HIM NOW YOU KNOW MR. HASEGAWA I WON'T BE SEEING HIM ANYMORE AT ALL
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO TAKE ME BACK OR ANYTHING I KNOW I BLEW IT
MMM
OOOH
WELL THEN, GUESS I'LL HANG U-
HELLO?
I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, AKIO IT'S BEEN SO LONG
UMM

HEY
HELLO?
WHAT, YOU WERE HOME? WHY DIDN'T YOU PICK UP!
UMM.
OKAY, I GUESS
SORRY FOR CALLING SO SUDDENLY
NAH IT'S OKAY
HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
I KNOW I'VE DONE SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS TO YOU
WELL, UMM... I JUST...
I JUST WANTED TO SAY I'M SORRY

WELL... A LOT'S HAPPENED BETWEEN US, HASN'T IT?
THOUGH I GUESS IF YOU ASKED ME IF THAT MEANS I LOVE YOU,
YEAH...
AND I REALLY WANTED TO TELL YOU. I KNOW A LOT'S HAPPENED BETWEEN US BUT I DON'T HATE YOU REALLY
THOUGH OF COURSE, IF YOU MOVED NEARBY OR SOMETHING, I'D PROBABLY END UP GETTING COLD FEET ON THAT!
Hahaha
BUT IF WE WEREN'T SO FAR APART RIGHT NOW,
MAYBE I WOULD'VE SUGGESTED WE START DATING AGAIN. OF COURSE THIS TIME I'D BE THE ONE ASKING YOU OUT!
AND BESIDES... I THINK WE SHOULDN'T
WHAT?
HUH? OH! REALLY?
NAH, I GOT A JOB HERE IN KISARAZU
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

...IF WE NEVER TRIED TO GET BACK TOGETHER AGAIN...
I THINK IT'D BE BETTER FOR US BOTH...
I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING YOU DIDN'T LIKE, AKIO
NO, NO! I WAS JOKING, OF COURSE!
I MEANT THAT I'M A HOPELESS LOSER...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
MMM...

OH! WAIT, DON'T TELL ME—
YOU GOT A NEW GIRL-FRIEND?
AM I RIGHT?
OH, SILLY, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE
OH, WAIT, IS SHE THERE RIGHT NOW? I'M SO SORRY, I'LL HANG UP NOW-
NAH WE BROKE UP ALREADY
AL-READY?!
YOU THINK YOU'RE TOO GOOD FOR WOMEN NOW, HUH, AKIO?
WHAT?

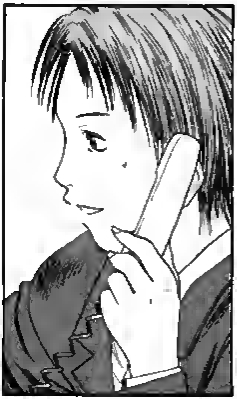
WELL, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, IN A WAY...
IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT, BUT...
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS. I WAS THINKING YOU SOUNDED DOWN
SORRY, I PROBABLY WASN'T HELPING
NAH...
ANYWAY, SORRY FOR CALLING OUT OF NOWHERE LIKE THIS... I'LL HANG UP NOW
KEEP YOUR CHIN UP!
HAHAHA...
OKAY, BYE...

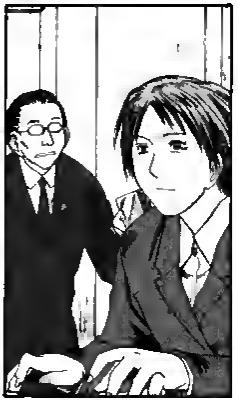
HONESTLY, WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT? HAHAHA
WHEN
MM?
OH?
ACK, NO
I GUESS I'M ALREADY JUST ANOTHER EX-GIRLFRIEND TO HIM

DAMN IT
NOK
NOK

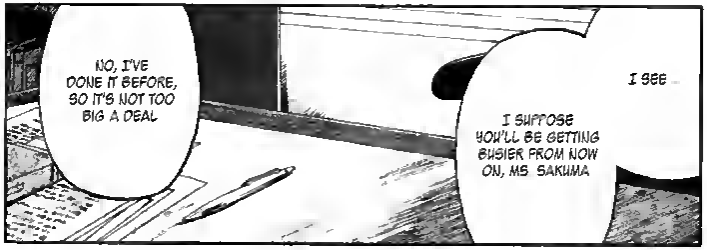
HE SAYS HE'S BEEN ASSIGNED SOMEWHERE ELSE
WHAT?!
DADDY WANTS TO TALK
HUH?
HEY, SIS
HUH? WHAT?
MHMM STARTING IN SPRING I'LL BE WORKING IN SENDAI
THE PAPERWORK WILL PROBABLY GO THROUGH SOON ENOUGH
HUH
THAT'S KIND OF SCARY
BETTER THAN BEING FIRED, IF YOU ASK ME

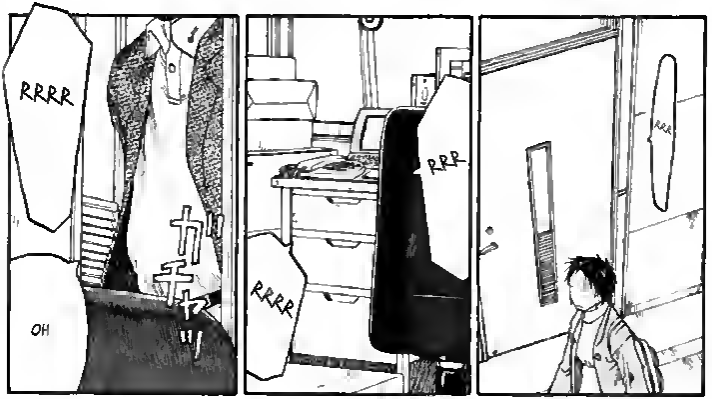
THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S BEEN FEELING A LITTLE UNSAFE LATELY
JUST ME AND MOM, HUH? THAT'S REALLY KIND OF SCARY
AND YUKINO WILL PROBABLY MOVE OUT ONCE SHE GETS INTO COLLEGE
WELL, YOU HAVE YOUR WORK,
YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL ALONE THEN?
HAHAHA
NO WAY!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIVING NEARBY ANYWAY, NO MATTER WHICH COLLEGE YOU GET INTO WHY NOT JUST STAY HERE?
MM, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I HEAR THE FOOD IN SENDAI IS REALLY TASTY
ガヤガヤ





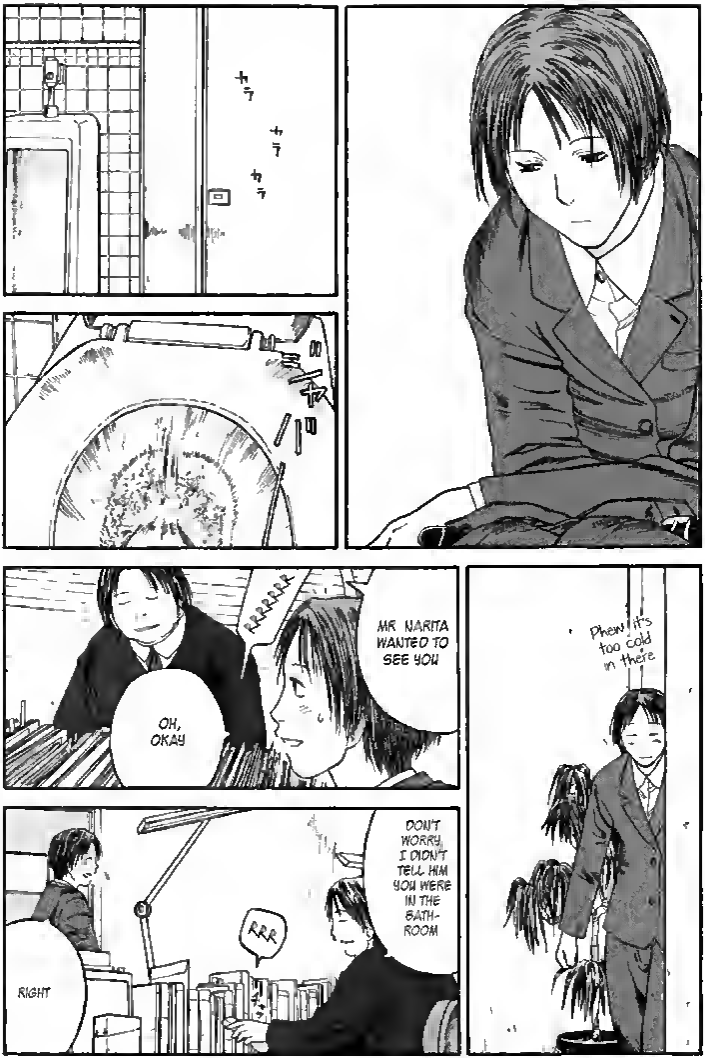
YOU'RE RIGHT... IT MIGHT BE SLIGHTLY DIFFICULT AS THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA
AS LONG AS SHE GETS TO HAVE THE FINAL SAY IN THIS,
OF COURSE IT'S NOT OUR DECISION TO MAKE FOR HER, AFTER ALL
HMM... WILL YOU ASK HER FOR HER OPINION?
SHE'D PROBABLY ACCEPT THIS AS PART OF WHAT SHE SIGNED UP FOR.
SHE WOULDN'T CHOOSE THE EASY WAY OUT.


NO, I'VE DONE IT BEFORE, SO IT'S NOT TOO BIG A DEAL
I SEE...
I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE GETTING BUSIER FROM NOW ON, MS. SAKUMA


RRRR
OH
カチャ
RRR
RRRR
RRR

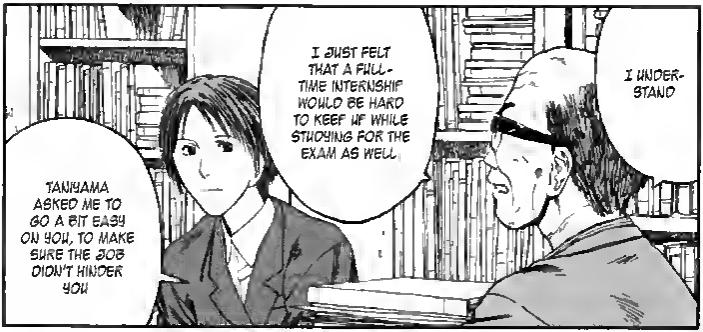
HELLO?

Chapter 29 - Propeller


Phew! it's too cold in there
MR NARITA WANTED TO SEE YOU
OH, OKAY
DON'T WORRY, I DIDN'T TELL HIM YOU WERE IN THE BATH-ROOM
RIGHT

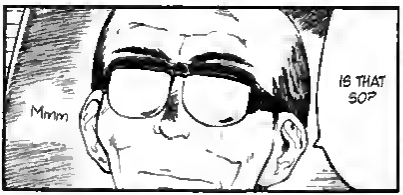
IT'S SOMA, MR NARITA
PLEASE COME IN
Yes
Thank you so much
?
WE WERE THINKING OF CUTTING BACK ON YOUR WORKLOAD IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR BAR EXAM
UMM...
EXCUSE ME?

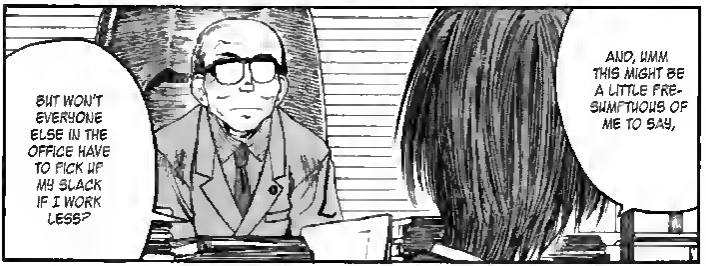
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF COMING OUT FOR WORK JUST THREE TIMES A WEEK?
AH, PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT
OH, RIGHT
IT WOULD BE FOR THE FOUR MONTHS UNTIL THE EXAM BEGINS,
AND OF COURSE WE'D CONTINUE TO PAY YOU THE SAME AS BEFORE
UMM...
RIGHT...
I TRULY APPRECIATE THE OFFER,
BUT IT IS A BIT SUDDEN...
HMM...


I UNDERSTAND
I JUST FELT THAT A FULL-TIME INTERNSHIP WOULD BE HARD TO KEEP UP WHILE STUDYING FOR THE EXAM AS WELL
TANIYAMA ASKED ME TO GO A BIT EASY ON YOU, TO MAKE SURE THE JOB DIDN'T HINDER YOU

THE AUTONOMIC IMBALANCE WAS CAUSED BY A PERSONAL ISSUE
BUT I'VE GOTTEN THAT OUT OF THE WAY NOW, SO IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM ANYMORE

ESPECIALLY SINCE IT SEEMS IT WAS SO STRESSING THAT YOU HAD TO GET MEDICAL TREATMENT
AH, NO, ACTUALLY


Mmm
IS THAT SO?

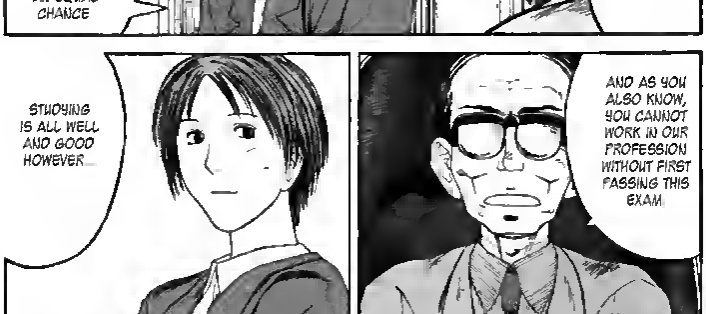

AND, UMM THIS MIGHT BE A LITTLE PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME TO SAY,
BUT WON'T EVERYONE ELSE IN THE OFFICE HAVE TO PICK UP MY SLACK IF I WORK LESS?

WE PREPARED THE DOCUMENTS AND SUCH OURSELVES BEFORE YOU CAME, SO THAT'S MERELY A MATTER OF DOING IT AGAIN.
BUT THE SECRETARIAL WORK WILL PROBABLY BE A FAIRLY SIZABLE BURDEN TO MS. SAKUMA
SHE TELLS ME SHE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT, BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO HIRE ANOTHER PERSON TO TAKE CARE OF IT FOR HER
WE HAVE OUR CONNECTIONS, AFTER ALL
PARDON ME, SIR, BUT I THINK YOU'RE ACCOMODATING ME A LITTLE TOO MUCH
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM IN MUCH HARSHER CONDITIONS
I DON'T THINK MY WORK HERE IS A SUFFICIENT EXCUSE FOR SUCH ALLOWANCES
HMM...
MORE THAN ANYTHING, THE FACT THAT MY ABSENCE WOULD INCONVENIENCE OTHERS DOES BOTHER ME.

OH?
ACTUALLY, THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE
FIRST, YOU END YOUR INTERNSHIP HERE ENTIRELY
AND WORK UNDER TANIYAMA AS HIS TEACHING ASSISTANT
AND THEN, YOU GO BACK TO KISARAZU,

Oh, you've talked to him about it already?
YES, HE SAID THAT YOU'D BE AVERSE TO THE IDEA
HAHAHA
WELL THAT'S A LITTLE
WELL HAHAHA
THOUGH, THAT WAS ACTUALLY MY FIRST CHOICE, PERSONALLY
IF YOU TRULY DO WANT TO PASS THE EXAM, WOULDN'T IT BE YOUR DUTY TO TAKE ANY ADVANTAGE YOU CAN GET?
PERSONALLY, I DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE BELIEF THAT MODESTY IS A VIRTUE
I'LL BE HONEST. YES, THIS IS FAVORITISM BUT IT'S NOTHING ILLEGAL. WE'RE JUST MAKING TIME FOR YOU TO STUDY

Oh umm Of course
YOU MUSTN'T MISUNDERSTAND WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY EVERYONE HAS AN EQUAL CHANCE
THE EXAM ITSELF IS UNDOUBTEDLY FAIR, BUT THE CONDITIONS THAT COME BEFORE IT ARE MOST CERTAINLY NOT
THIS IS A COMPETITION, MS SOMA


STUDYING IS ALL WELL AND GOOD HOWEVER...
AND AS YOU ALSO KNOW, YOU CANNOT WORK IN OUR PROFESSION WITHOUT FIRST PASSING THIS EXAM

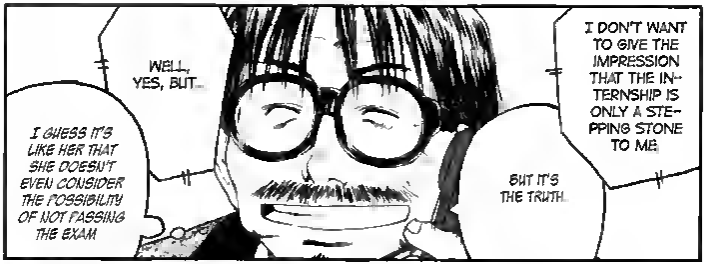
AND WILFULLY CHOOSING AN INFERIOR PATH WHEN YOUR GOAL IS CLEAR IS NOTHING SHORT OF FOOLISHNESS
THIS GOES FOR EVERYTHING IN LIFE WHATEVER YOU ATTEMPT, YOU MUST BE WILLING TO GO AT IT WITH-
STUDYING FOR ITS OWN SAKE? I FEEL THAT IS LOSING SIGHT OF YOUR TRUE GOAL

NO, I UNDERSTAND
MY APOLOGIES I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I WAS FORCING YOU TO DO IT
I'M AFRAID I STARTED RAMBLING
OH, PARDON ME
YES, SIR
OR TO GO BACK TO KISARAZU. IT'S YOUR CHOICE. PLEASE THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY
I MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THE FINAL DECISION IS YOURS TO MAKE
YOU MAY CHOOSE TO KEEP WORKING AS YOU ARE NOW, OR TO TAKE SOME DAYS OFF.
EXCUSE ME
YES, THANK YOU...
AND KEEP IN MIND THAT WE WILL SUPPORT YOU IN WHICHEVER PATH YOU CHOOSE

HMM?
WELL? WHAT DID HE SAY?
WELL HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
WHAT?

OK.
カチ カチ カチ
HELLO? THIS IS THE TANIYAMA RESIDENCE
OH HELLO, MRS. TANIYAMA I'M SORRY I CALLED SO LATE AT NIGHT
I'M A SEIKEI UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS WHO WAS ADVISED BY PROFESSOR TANIYAMA DURING MY TIME AT SCHOOL
YES YES, AND I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP HE GAVE ME
UMM... IS THE PROFESSOR AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT?
HELLO? MS. SOMA?
PROFE-SSOR? I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T CALLED IN A WHILE. HAVE YOU BEEN WELL?
AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED. SO, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WELL, TODAY MR. NARITA CALLED ME INTO HIS OFFICE AND SUGGESTED TAKING TIME OFF WORK UNTIL THE EXAM...
AH, THAT
YES. HE DISCUSSED THAT WITH ME A WHILE AGO AS WELL

WHEN IT COMES TO WORK, ANY RESPITE SHOULD BE WELCOMED
OF COURSE IT IS
HE SAID I'D ONLY NEED TO COME TO WORK THREE DAYS A WEEK
YES, I SUGGESTED THAT ONE
DO YOU THINK THAT'S REALLY OKAY?
WELL, IT'S JUST THAT...
I MEAN, YES, IF I PASS THE BAR EXAM, OF COURSE I'M GOING TO QUIT,
I'm fine!
Want some?
IT REALLY FELT LIKE HE WAS DOING IT BECAUSE YOU ASKED HIM TO...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S OKAY TO SLACK ON THE JOB WHILE I'M STILL THERE
IT FELT LIKE MR MARITA WAS TRYING SO HARD TO ACCOMODATE ME


I DON'T WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE INTERNSHIP IS ONLY A STEPPING STONE TO ME
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH
WELL, YES, BUT...
I GUESS IT'S LIKE HER THAT SHE DOESN'T EVEN CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT PASSING THE EXAM

IT'S NO USE WRINGING YOUR HANDS OVER IT NOW
AND BESIDES YOUR ENTIRE INTERNSHIP OVER THERE IS TECHNICALLY THANKS TO MY CONNECTIONS
SO JUST MAKE USE OF IT

AND IT'S NOT LIKE I'M INDEBTING MYSELF TO NARITA BY ASKING
OKAY...
THINK OF IT AS A FRIENDLY SUGGESTION DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU

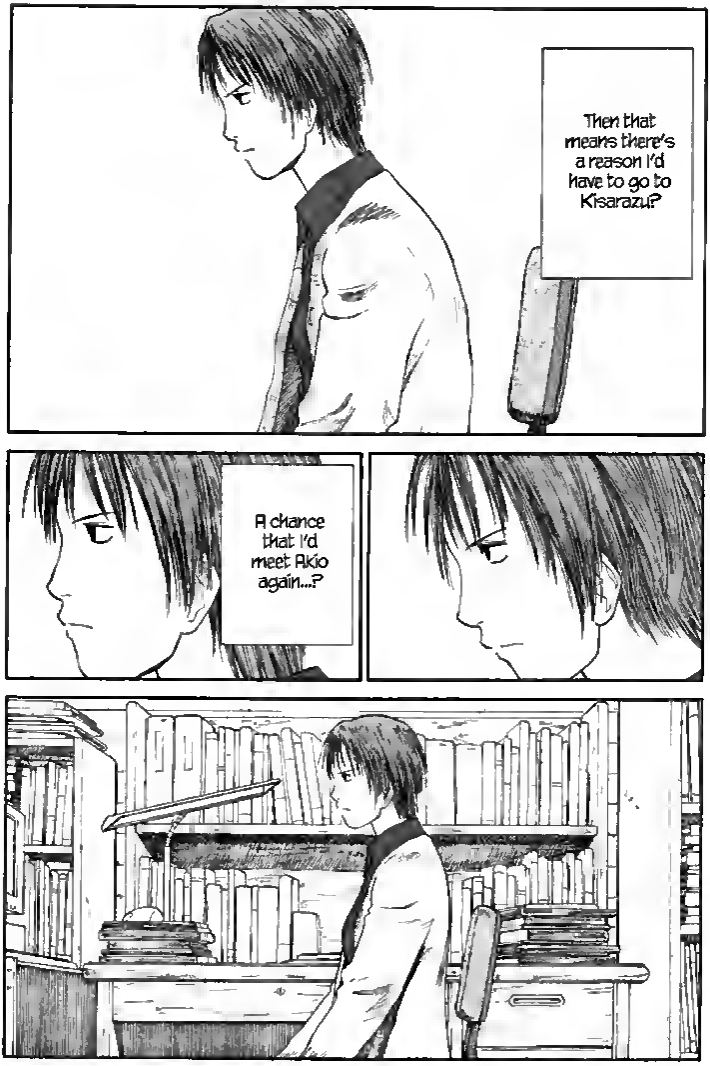
THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR REPAYING GENEROSITY AFTER YOU PASS THE BAR
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. COME AND VISIT ME IN KISARAZU EVERY SO OFTEN, WOULD YOU?
I WON'T ASK YOU TO T.A FOR ME.
RIGHT
I DON'T KNOW, THERE'S TOO MUCH TO REPAY. CAN WE JUST PRETEND I DID AND NOT?
OF COURSE SOME DAY YOU CAN PAY ME BACK, TOO
Several times over even
UNGRATE-FUL PUFU!
NO, IT'S MORE THAT I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO KISARAZU, PERIOD
WAHAHA
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO T.A. FOR ME, DO YOU?
WHAT? OH, UMM...

THE RISING SECOND YEAR GRAD STUDENTS WERE IN YOUR YEAR, WEREN'T THEY
I SEEM TO REMEMBER THERE WAS SOME BAD BLOOD THERE
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT
AND BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THE HASSLE OF FINDING ANOTHER APARTMENT TO LIVE IN
I suppose
AND, UMM
I HEARD THAT AKIO GOT A JOB THERE
AH, YES, I SEEM TO RE-MEMBER HEARING THAT
BUT HE'LL FINALLY BE GRA-DUATING THIS YEAR, YOU KNOW
Hahaha
YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE SEEING HIM MUCH IF AT ALL
I DON'T WANT TO EVEN BE IN THE SAME CITY AS HE IS

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
OH? NO, I CAN'T SAY THAT I DID.
HE ACTUALLY GOT HIMSELF A NEW GIRL-FRIEND,
AND NOW THEY'VE ALREADY BROKEN UP, TOO
WELL AT LEAST HE WAS ENJOYING HIMSELF FOR A WHILE
MHMM
HE DOESN'T COME TO CAMPUS ANYMORE, AFTER ALL
MHMM. JUST STOP BY TO SAY HI WHEN YOU PASS THE BAR
OF COURSE
WELL I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT MUCH
IF I EVER GO OVER THERE I'LL TRY AND DROP BY, PROFESSOR.

SORRY AGAIN FOR CALLING SO LATE
OH, IT WAS NO PRO-BLEM.
GOOD LUCK WITH THE BAR!
THANK YOU
BYE
GOOD-BYE
HMM?
HMM? SOME-THING WRONG?
OH, UMM IT'S NO-THING
HMM?


Then that means there's a reason I'd have to go to Kisarazu!?
A chance that I'd meet Akio again...?

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とん
とん
I REALLY DON'T WANT THAT
ガチャン
ガチャ
カラカラカラ
MHMM
JUST A LITTLE THIRSTY

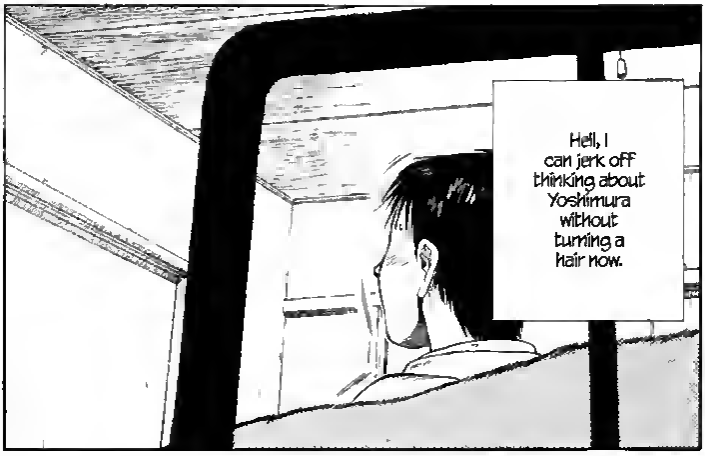
MHMM
WHY?
NO REASON
DAD'S NOT HOME YET?
Ahaha hahah haha haha
IT'S BETTER SHE RELAXES A LITTLE THAN JUST WORRYING OVER IT ALL DAY
DOESN'T SHE HAVE HER SECOND ROUND OF EXAMS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?
AHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHA
HEE-HEE
I GUESS

Maybe I should give Akio a call.
AT LEAST THERE'LL BE THAT TO TALK ABOUT
WELL, I GUESS THERE'S THE TALK I HAD WITH THE PRO-FESSOR
ACK, NO, IT'LL JUST END UP LIKE BEFORE...
I WONDER HOW HE'D REACT IF I TOLD HIM I WAS GOING BACK TO KISARAZU
AND.

GARU
Whew
HUH?
OOF!
OKAY!

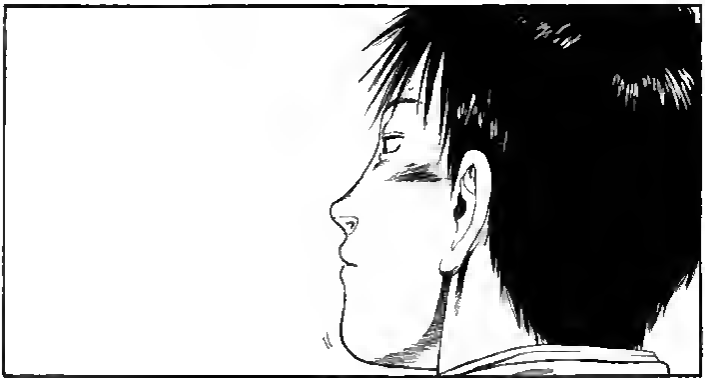
ガラガラガラガラ
HOW IS HE?
OH, HE'S DOING FINE
THINK WE COULD HAVE HIM ON FULL TIME?
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT
BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, HONESTLY.
HE SEEMED THE LAZY SORT AT FIRST GLANCE.

I'm not feeling depressed anymore.



The more I do it, the more I get used to it.

I think masturbation has that sort of effect on men. Guess you could say that's its purpose.

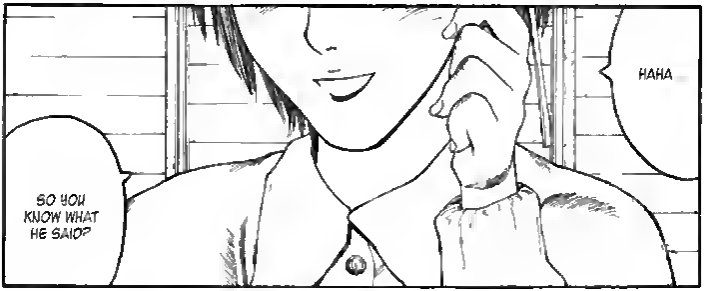


All that's really left is to consider how I'd go about starting a relationship with a girl next time.
.....
.....
I want to use this as a lesson, so that next time I can look for something deeper...
UMM HI, IT'S ME, YOSHINO
HELLO?
HAH, KNEW IT
RRRRR
YOSHINO?
I can't tell with this phone
RRRRR

ERR...
HAHA, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY, I JUST FELT COM-FORTABLE CALLING.
HAH, IS IT JUST ME OR DO YOU CALL MORE OFTEN AFTER WE BROKE UP THAN BEFORE?
WELL, YOU'RE ACTUALLY TALKING TO ME, FOR ONE
I GUESS
REALLY? YOU SOUND A LOT BETTER THAN YOU DID LAST TIME.
HMM... YOU THINK?
NAH, IT'S OKAY
YOU WANT ME TO HANG UP?
I'VE BEEN FEELING KINDA BLUE LATELY MYSELF

SO, UMM...
I WAS ON THE PHONE WITH PROFESSOR TANIYAMA A WHILE AGO
HUH
IT WAS ABOUT WORK...
BUT I ASKED HIM IF HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND, TOO.
WHAT?
TURNS OUT HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU'D HAD ONE
OF COURSE
I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN HIM IN FOREVER
HOW'S WORK?
OH... WELL, IT'S A LITTLE BUSY, BUT I'M MANAGING

HE WENT TO COLLEGE WITH PROFESSOR TANIYAMA, SO HE CALLED HIM UP TO ASK FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO HELP ME
SO MY BOSS, MR. NARITA, HE THOUGHT I SHOULD THINK ABOUT CUTTING BACK ON WORK TO STUDY FOR THE BAR EXAM.
OKAY
HUH.


HAHA
SO YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID?

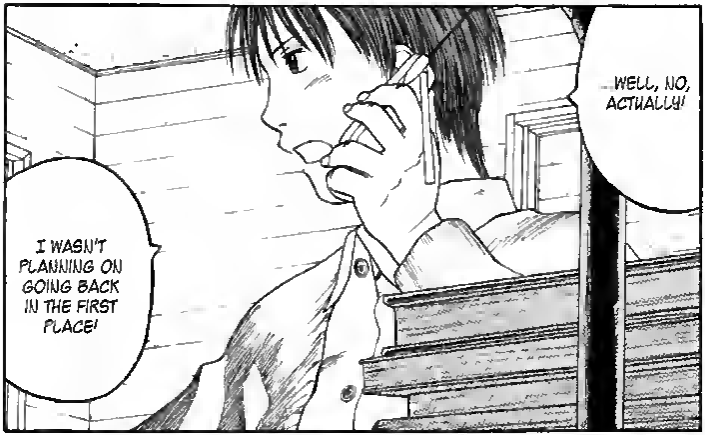
HE SAID I SHOULD QUIT WORKING AT THE FIRM AND GO T.A. FOR THE PROFESSOR OVER IN KISARAZU.

HAHA.

DON'T COME BACK!!

.....
.....
WHY NOT?

Chapter 30 - Thought



ACTUALLY, I AGREED TO JUST CUT BACK ON THE DAYS I GO TO WORK.
I DON'T WANT TO SLIDE BACK-WARDS LIKE THAT, EITHER!
I WAS JUST JOKING ABOUT KISARAZU!

...I GUESS TO YOU, IT WASN'T A JOKE.
I'M SORRY
I GUESS I UNDERSTAND. WE'VE BEEN OVER FOR A WHILE NOW, AFTER ALL.
I'M SORRY, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO JOKE ABOUT IT
ARE YOU REALLY THAT AGAINST IT?

I THINK
BYE
I'LL HANG UP NOW
I'D WANT TO HAVE YOU AGAIN
THAT IF I SAW YOU AGAIN,

HUH?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT WHEN I SEE A GIRL I BROKE UP WITH,
I STILL THINK TO MYSELF, "I WONDER IF I COULD MANAGE ONE LAST FUCK."

ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME OR SOME-THING?
HOLD ON...
ACTUALLY, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I THINK THE WHOLE REASON I STARTED DATING YOU...
MIGHT'VE BEEN BECAUSE I JUST WANTED TO SLEEP WITH YOU

...KEEP TALKING LIKE THAT AND YOU'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER GIRLFRIEND, AKIO
...WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT, ANYWAY?

I THINK WANTING SEX IS A TOTALLY FINE THING.
AND BESIDES,
IT CALMED YOU DOWN AND MADE YOU GENTLER. RIGHT?
ARE YOU SURE THAT IT'S SO SIMPLE?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S ALL. THERE WAS TO IT
YEAH, BUT THE THING IS
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
AND AT THE SAME TIME IT MEANT THAT YOU WERE ACCEPTING ME.
AND IT MADE ME HAPPY THAT I COULD DO SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU HAPPY,

YOU SAW HAVING SEX WITH ME AS NOTHING BUT AN OBLIGATION, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?
WHAT?
DID I EVER SAY THAT TO YOU?
YOU DIDN'T SAY IT OUT LOUD,
BUT I COULD STILL TELL.
MMM.
IT DEPENDS
HUH?
IT DEPENDED ON MY CONDITION AND MOOD, OKAY?!
IT'S NOT LIKE IT HURT ME TO HAVE SEX WITH YOU WHEN I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT OR ANYTHING
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...

WHAT?
THAT'S IT!
IT WAS LIKE DOING THE DISHES!
YOU FIND IT'S OVER AND DONE IN NO TIME
BUT ONCE YOU ACTUALLY START ON DOING THE DISHES,
YOU KIND OF PROCRASTINATE ON STARTING, RIGHT?
AND THEN WHEN YOU'RE ALL DONE, YOU GET A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISH-MENT!
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO THEM, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND YOU CAN'T NOT DO THEM

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
...I'M A PILE OF DIRTY DISHES?
WELL... A LITTLE STICKIER AND MESSIER, BUT YEAH
OH, AND RIGHT AFTER MY PERIOD, I REALLY CAN'T GET MYSELF IN THE MOOD AT ALL.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, BUT THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR ME
I GUESS IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW I'M FEELING AT THE TIME
HMM... WELL, LIKE, TO BE BLUNT, RIGHT BEFORE AND AFTER I OVULATE?
BUT THERE'S TIMES WHEN I REALLY WANT SEX, TOO
THAT'S MY DEFAULT STATE, I GUESS

WHEN I'M REALLY NOT IN THE MOOD, I DO THINK "I'D BE OKAY WITH NEVER HAVING SEX AGAIN FOR THE REST OF LIFE"
IF YOU WERE ABLE PICK UP ON THAT FEELING THEN, I GUESS THAT WAS PRETTY BAD
WELL, I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, YOU DON'T NEED TO REALLY CARE ABOUT THAT SO MUCH
I JUST CHANGE BACK AND FORTH AT THE DROP OF A HAT, OKAY?

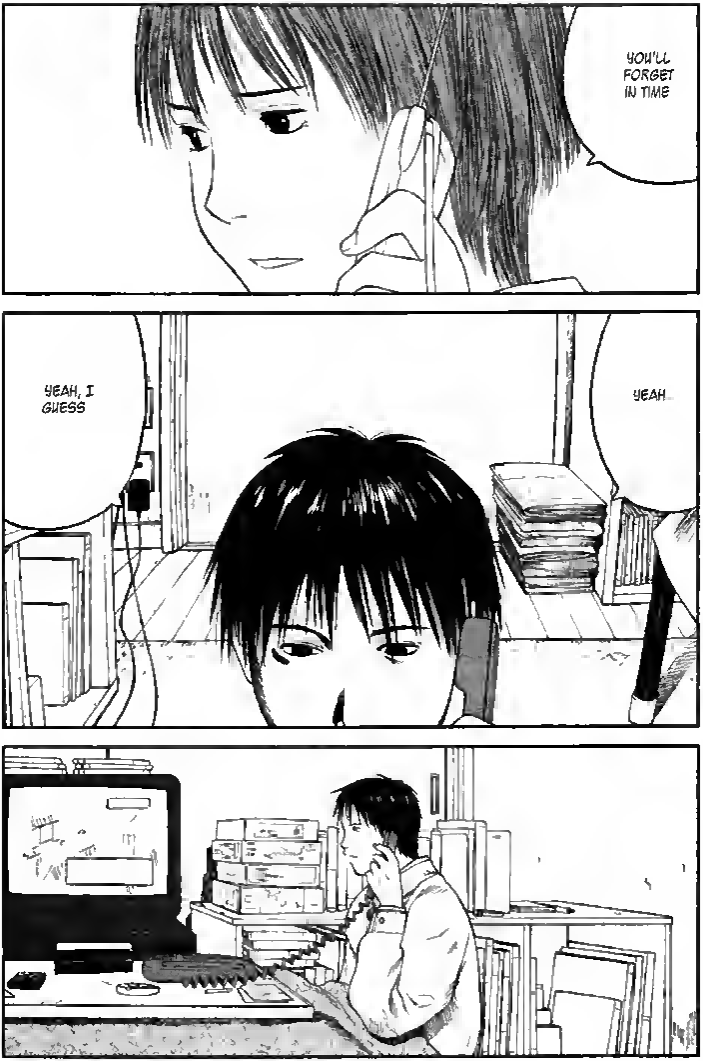
IS WANTING SEX ENOUGH TO KEEP A RELATIONSHIP GOING?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS IF YOU WANT SEX, YOU SHOULD TRY TREATING ME BETTER OUTSIDE THE BEDROOM
AND JUST IN GENERAL BE NICER TO ME. THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.
BUT ISN'T THAT...
I DUNNO, A LITTLE ONE-SIDED?
WHAT?
I MEAN, THEN THAT'S ONLY GOOD FOR ME.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YOSHINO?

THOUGH I DON'T THINK YOU EVER CAUGHT ON TO THAT
WELL, LIKE I SAID, THERE'S TIMES WHEN I WANT SEX TOO, YOU KNOW?
.....
.....
HAHAHA
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER REALLY HAD TO TRY THAT HARD TO GET YOU IN THE MOOD, TOO
THOUGH I GUESS IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW
I SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO BE KINDER TO YOU, TOO
WELL YOU'RE RIGHT

IT FELT REALLY NATURAL, AND COMFORTABLE
BUT I REALLY LIKED DATING YOU, AKIO
BUT IN THE END, WE BROKE UP
MMM

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. WE BROKE UP
.....
.....
WHAT GOT YOU THINKING ABOUT THAT, ANYWAY?

BECAUSE YOU BROKE UP WITH YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND?
BECAUSE YOU BROKE UP WITH ME OR RATHER,
THERE ARE GOOD TIMES, AND THOSE ARE GOOD, BUT THERE ARE ALSO BAD TIMES, AND THOSE ARE BAD
IT JUST HAPPENS SOME-TIMES, AKIO
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S WORTH BROODING OVER LIKE THAT


YOU'LL FORGET IN TIME
YEAH, I GUESS
YEAH...

BUT MAN,
SHE REALLY GOT ME, YOU KNOW?
HEHEH
HUH, REALLY?
HAHA
DON'T TELL ME, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT
OF COURSE, DUMMY!
HUH?
YOU SOUND A LOT BRIGHTER THAN BEFORE
ME?

I DON'T KNOW... I GUESS I'VE JUST BECOME MORE RELAXED.
THIS IS WHAT I USED TO BE LIKE ALL THE TIME BEFORE, RIGHT?

HEY.
HMM?

IF I SAID I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN WOULD YOU GET MAD?
HUH? WAIT, ARE YOU SERIOUS?
HMM? NO, I DON'T MIND

I WAS JUST THINK-ING, THAT MAYBE IF I MET YOU...
MAYBE I'D BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO NORMAL, TOO...
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, YOU KNOW THAT?

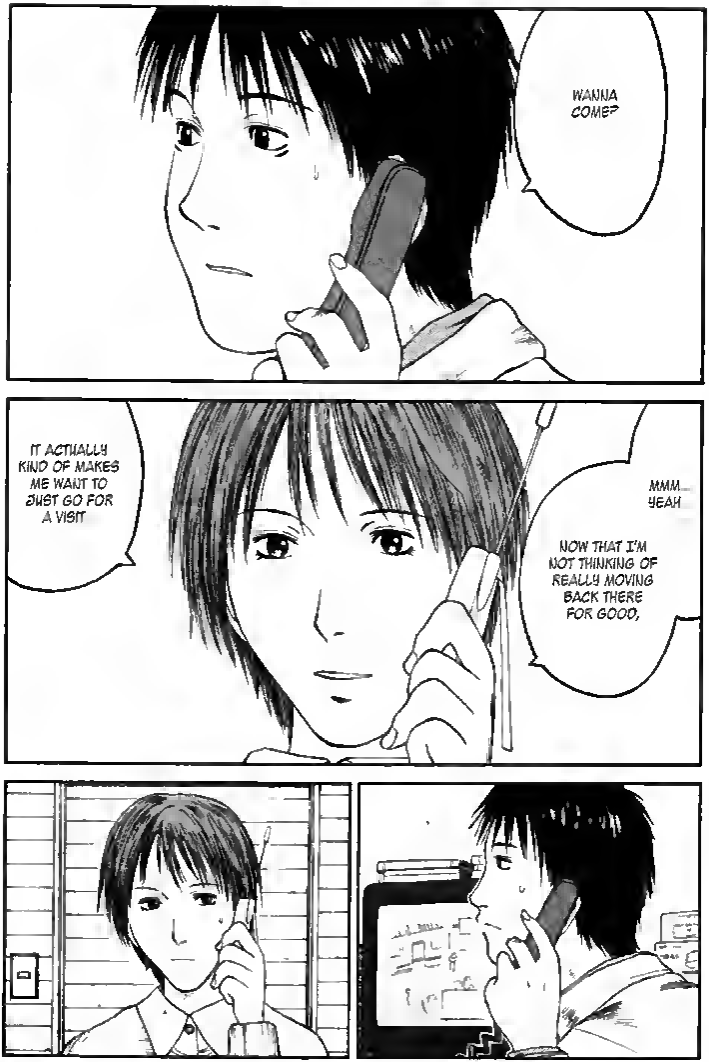
SO YOU BREAK UP WITH YOUR NEW GIRL-FRIEND,
AND REBOUND RIGHT TO YOUR EX, HUH?
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
ACK
I'M THE ONE WHO CALLED HIM, AREN'T I
WAIT,
AND, UMM, BESIDES!
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO SAID "DON'T COME BACK!"
ACTUALLY, MORE LIKE YOU SHOUTED IT AT ME!

SORRY
AH IT JUST CAME OUT
BESIDES, DIDN'T YOU JUST TALK ABOUT HOW YOU WANTED TO HAVE SEX WITH ME AGAIN?
AHAHAHA

OH
OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT
PROMISE I WON'T DO ANYTHING
IS IT OKAY THEN?
OH COME ON, HOW CAN'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT!
NO, REALLY, I'M SERIOUS.
SEX ISN'T SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN JUST NOT HAVE WHEN THE MOOD HITS

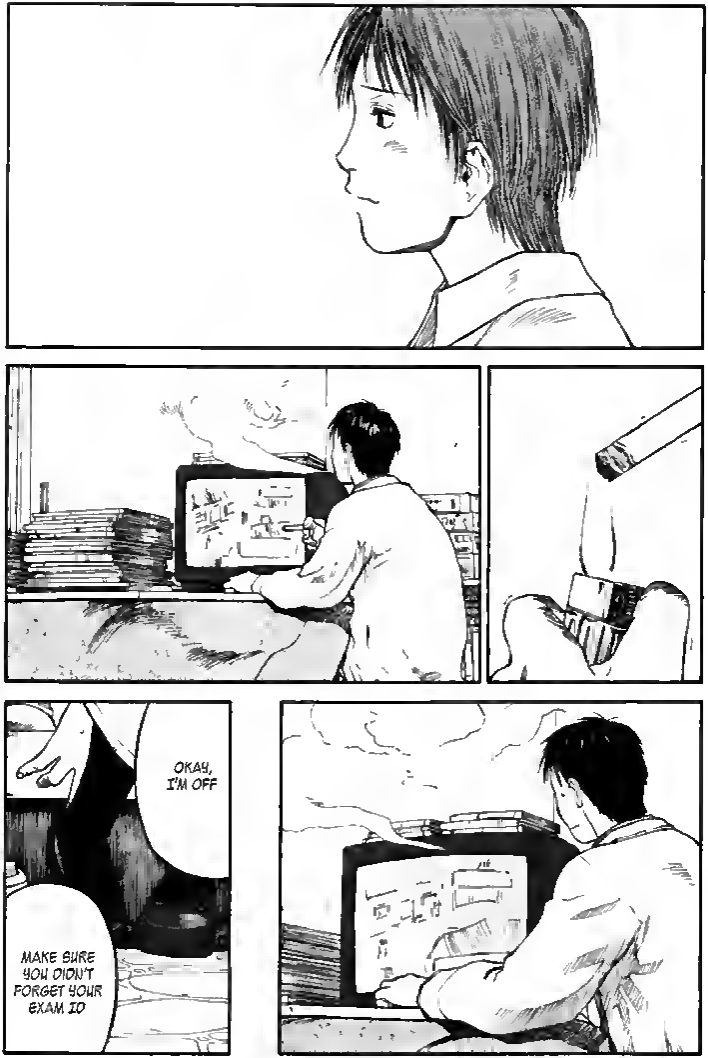
NOT TO A MAN I BROKE UP WITH!
I WON'T GO OVER SO EASILY!
WAIT, NO, NO, NO, NO!
IF IT TURNS OUT I'M IN THE MOOD FOR IT, THEN...
NOT TO A MAN WHO GOT A NEW GIRLFRIEND AFTER ME!
HAHA
WANT ME TO GO TO TOKYO?
HMM? MMM...
THEN HOW ABOUT WE JUST MEET OUTSIDE SOME-WHERE?
WELL...

MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO KISARAZU
HEY
HUH?
OH
WHAT?


WANNA COME?
MMM... YEAH
NOW THAT I'M NOT THINKING OF REALLY MOVING BACK THERE FOR GOOD,
IT ACTUALLY KIND OF MAKES ME WANT TO JUST GO FOR A VISIT

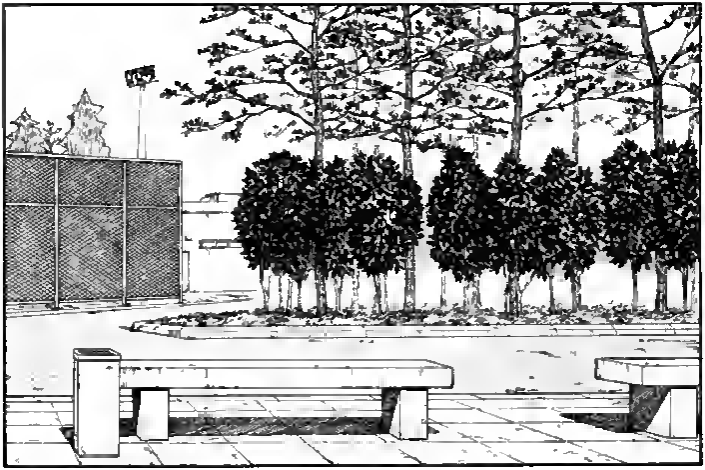
MMM...
I MEAN, IT'S FINE WITH ME.
IF YOU DECIDE TO COME, THAT IS
WELL...
HAHA
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'D BE INSURANCE AGAINST ANYTHING HAPPENING BETWEEN US!
OH, AND I SHOULD GO SEE PROFESSOR TANIYAMA TOO, WHILE I'M AT IT
OH, YEAH
AND IF I SET THE TIME TO SOMETIME AFTER I SEE YOU,
UMM, YEAH, I GUESS.
A SUNDAY WOULD BE BEST, RIGHT?
THEN I'LL TRY AND FIND A GOOD TIME

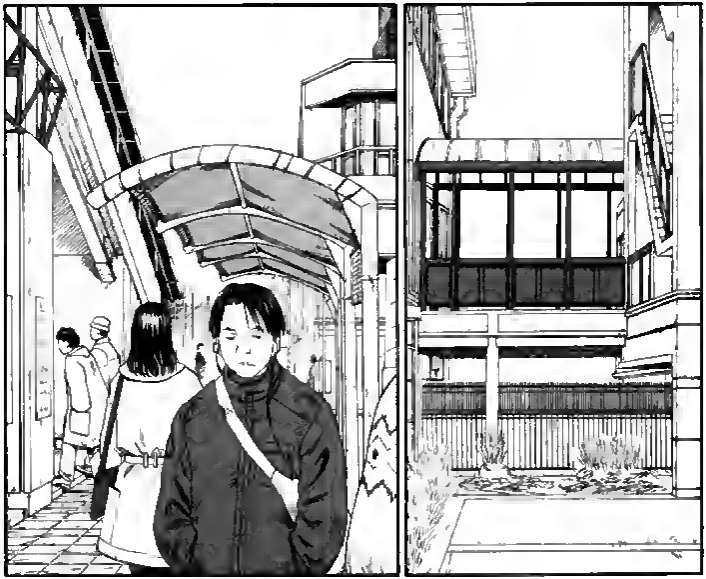
SEE YA
YEAH, SURE
IT PROBABLY WON'T BE LONG
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN LATER, ONCE I HAVE A GOOD TIME IN MIND
OKAY, THEN


OKAY, I'M OFF
MAKE SURE YOU DIDN'T FORGET YOUR EXAM ID

JUST RELAX
LOOK IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD
HMM?
OH, IT'S TIME, HUH?
AHAHA...
YEAH, EASY FOR YOU TO SAY
HMM?
OH THAT'S RIGHT MOM I THINK I'LL BE HAVING A LOT MORE DAYS OFF FROM NOW ON

Chapter 30
End

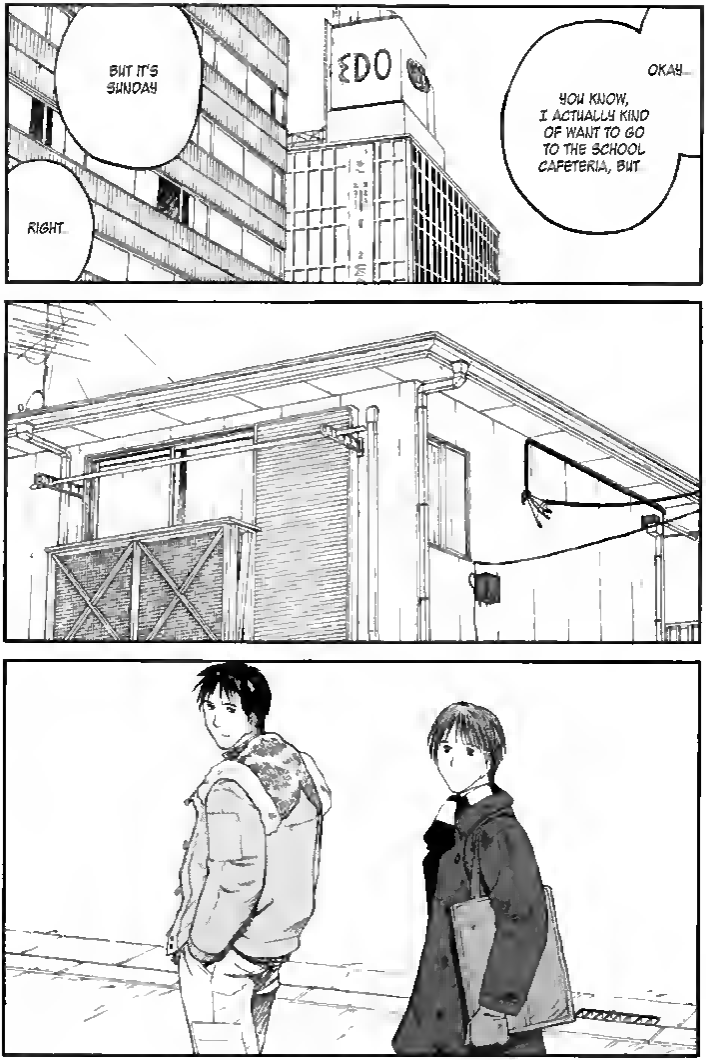




Final Chapter
The Failure and the Harlot

DRIED MACKEREL
WHAT'D YOU HAVE YESTER-DAY?
IT WAS TWO FOR ONE, SO I HAD THE SAME THING
AND TODAY?
NAH ACTUALLY, I BOUGHT A DROP LID THE OTHER DAY
JUST FISH, THEN?

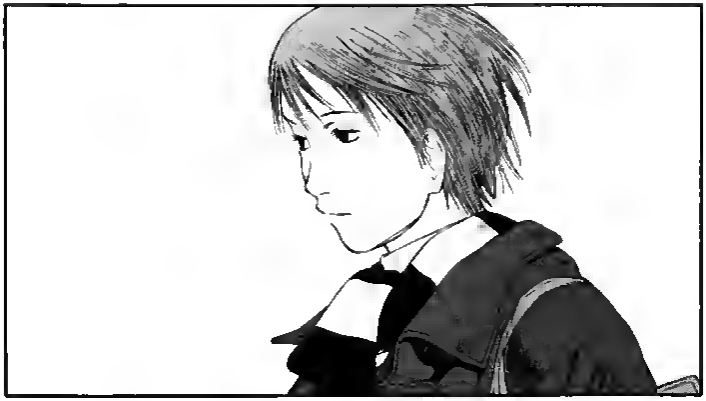
SO I BOILED SOME SQUASH WITH IT AND IT WAS REALLY GOOD
HAHA
IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY SIMPLE TO MAKE
MHMM IT IS
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR LUNCH?
EH, WHATEVER.


BUT IT'S SUNDAY
RIGHT.
EDO
OKAY.
YOU KNOW, I ACTUALLY KIND OF WANT TO GO TO THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA, BUT

NOW THAT I'M ACTUALLY HERE,
IT DOESN'T REALLY AFFECT ME AS MUCH AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S ALREADY LIVING IN THERE
WELL YEAH, IT'S ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOU MOVED OUT YOU KNOW
.....
I SUPPOSE IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN

YOU KNOW,
I WAS THINKING, THE BAR EXAM TESTS FOR ABILITY, SO WHY IS THERE A LIMIT ON HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN PASS IT?
WELL THERE'S ONLY SO MANY PEOPLE THE LEGAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE ACCEPTS RIGHT?
HMM WELL, YES, THAT'S THE OBVIOUS REASON, BUT STILL
THERE'S THIS SAYING ABOUT CIVIL LAW BEING TWENTY PERCENT
IT MEANS THAT ONLY TWENTY PERCENT OF THE PROBLEMS THAT CIVIL LAW SHOULD COVER ARE ACTUALLY BEING ADDRESSED BY THE COURT
AND SO, THE OTHER EIGHTY PERCENT?
IT FALLS TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, POLITICIANS AND SOMETIMES EVEN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO PICK UP THE SLACK

BUT EVEN TAKING THAT INTO CONSIDERATION, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH JUDGES THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PROSECUTORS, AND THERE AREN'T ENOUGH LAWYERS
SO I GUESS IT'S JUST NATURAL THAT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS...
JAPAN AS A WHOLE HAS A TENDENCY TO AVOID TRIALS,
IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, EVEN MORE PEOPLE TURN AWAY FROM SEEKING TRIALS
TRIALS ARE DELAYED BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OFFICIALS
IT KIND OF WEIGHS ON ME MORE AND MORE, ACTUALLY
LIKE, WHAT IF I DON'T PASS NOW, AFTER TAKING TIME OFF TO STUDY WHEN EVERYONE ELSE WAS WORKING SO HARD?
UH HUH...
YEAH, YOU'VE ACTUALLY GOT MORE TIME OFF, EH?
THOUGH, I GUESS THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW



YEAH
IT'S PRETTY CHILLY
HMM? NOTHING
SOMETHING THE MATTER?
HUH? OH...
WELL I DUNNO...
WELL? ARE YOU FEELING BACK TO NORMAL NOW?

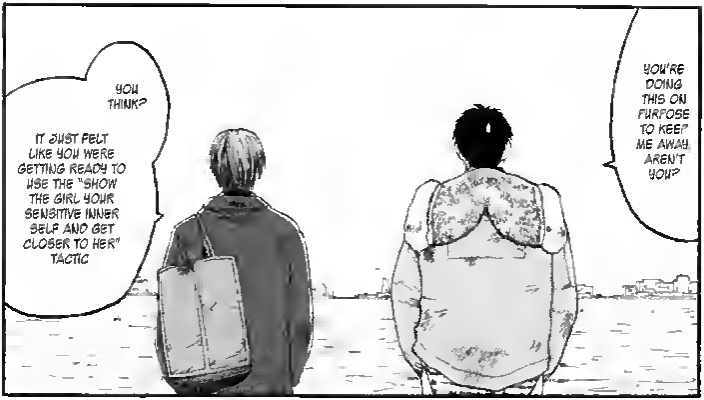
AND HELL, I EVEN SAW SOMEONE ELSE IN BETWEEN
I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN LIVING APART FOR A WHILE,
AND WE BROKE UP REALLY MESSILY
HMM?
HAH
I GUESS IT AIN'T SO EASY FOR US TO GO BACK TO THE WAY WE USED TO BE
HAHA
IF YOU MEAN US GOING BACK TO THE WAY WE WERE BEFORE...
DIDN'T YOU MEAN JUST YOURSELF WHEN YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GO BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN?
I THINK THAT WOULD BE A BIT MUCH TO ASK FOR, DON'T YOU?

HMM...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
YEAH...
I GUESS...
"CLOSE ENOUGH," HMM?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S EASY TO TELL
WELL, I GUESS WE'RE NORMAL ENOUGH NOW, EH?
I MEAN, WHAT'S IT MEAN TO BE NEUTRAL?
PEOPLE'S FEELINGS ARE ALWAYS CHANGING, THEY'RE NEVER THE SAME
SO MAYBE IT MEANS WHEN THE GAP BETWEEN THE HIGHS AND LOWS ISN'T SO BIG?

HMM
YEAH, BUT NOW I DUNNO
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT?

MAYBE SAYING "MAYBE I'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL" WAS JUST A DELUSION, A MISUNDERSTANDING,
OR MAYBE EVEN JUST A PREFACE TO WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO SAY...
YOU THINK SO?
I MEAN, I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, IT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME, AS LONG AS I GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN
...YOU KNOW, THEY SAY YOU GET DUMBER IF YOU KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE "I GUESS" OR "ANYWAY."

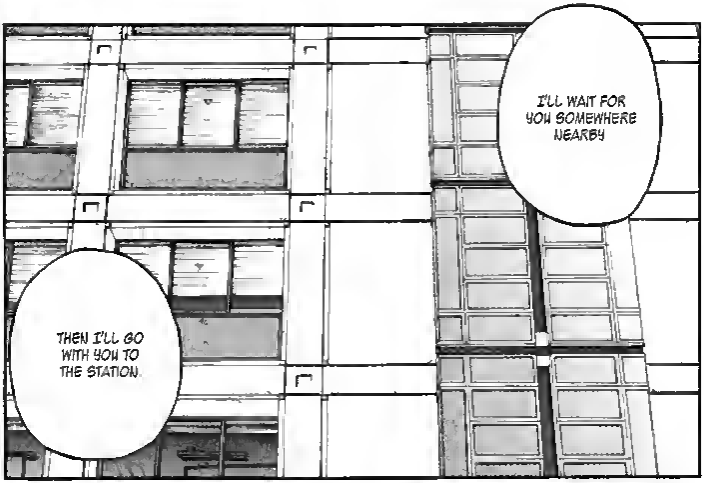
BUT THE WORLD REALLY IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN YOU THINK, AND YOU HAVE TO CONSTANTLY KEEP YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND REASON ON EDGE TO KEEP UP
HUH?
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE TWENTY PERCENT RULE I WAS TALKING ABOUT EARLIER,
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO FALL INTO COMPLACENCY, THINKING I HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS
WELL, IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE TOTALLY HANDLED BY MY SENSES ALONE
THE LINE OF WORK I'M GOING INTO
MMM...
LET'S TRY NOT TO RUSH THINGS, OKAY?
HMM?
BUT WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY WAS
YEAH, I GET WHAT YOU MEAN
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT LATELY

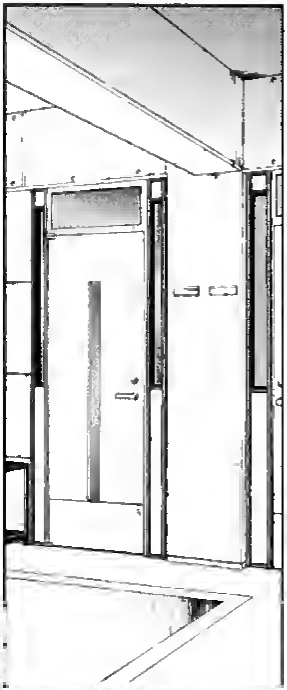

YOU'RE DOING THIS ON PURPOSE TO KEEP ME AWAY, AREN'T YOU?
YOU THINK?
IT JUST FELT LIKE YOU WERE GETTING READY TO USE THE "SHOW THE GIRL YOUR SENSITIVE INNER SELF AND GET CLOSER TO HER" TACTIC

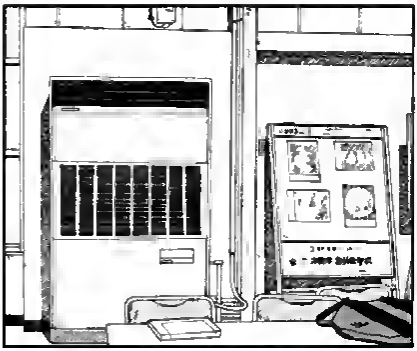
WELL... I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU TO CAMPUS, BUT I'M NOT SEEING TANIYAMA
WANT TO COME WITH ME?

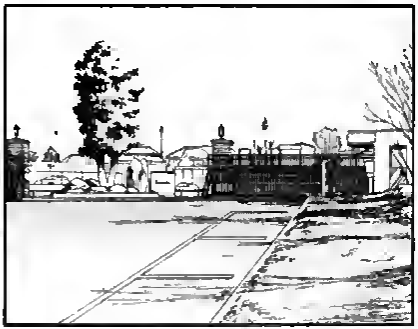
OKAY, I SHOULD GET GOING.
OH, OKAY.
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR MY MEETING WITH THE PROFESSOR

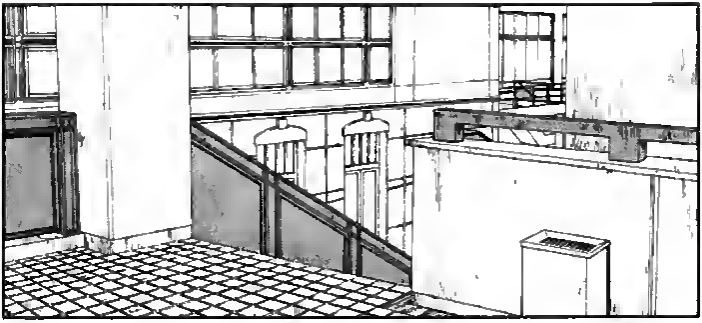
I GET THE FEELING HE'D JUST RANT AT ME ABOUT SOMETHING OR OTHER.
OH?

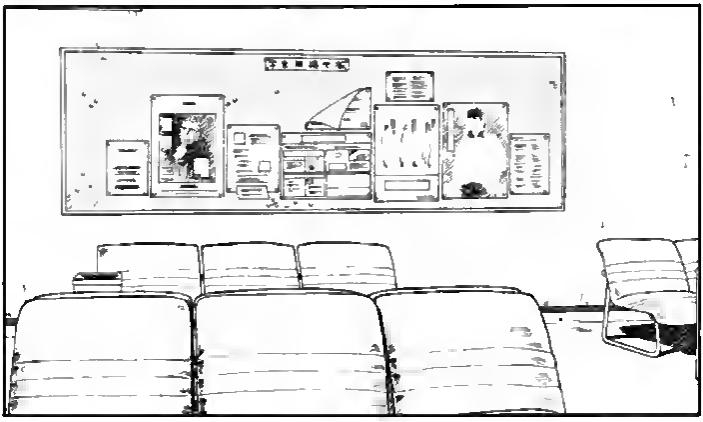

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU SOMEWHERE NEARBY
THEN I'LL GO WITH YOU TO THE STATION.

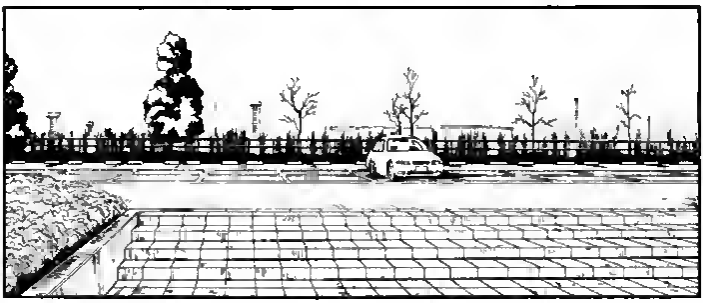


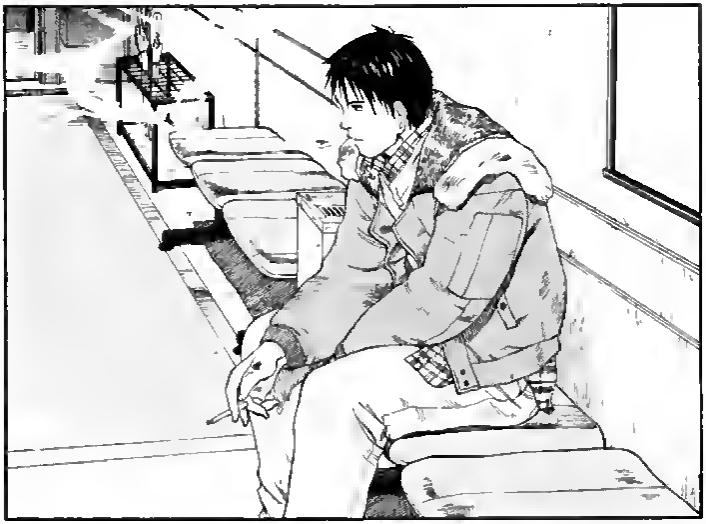












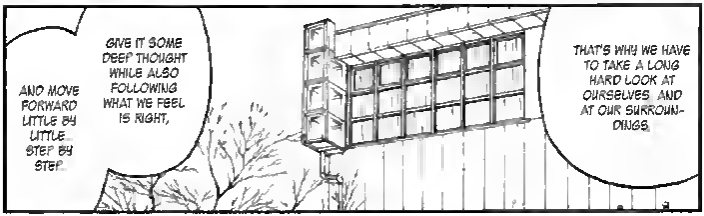
HOW WAS IT?
OH, JUST THE USUAL NOTHING BIG
YEAH
WELL, WHAT NOW? YOU GONNA LEAVE?
YEAH IT'S ABOUT TIME I SHOULD GO

HEY, SO I WAS THINKING
IF YOU DON'T MIND, COULD WE SEE EACH OTHER LIKE THIS AGAIN?
HMM?

AH YEAH, YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD, HUH?
TOO SELFISH? MAYBE I JUST SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT?
...NO,
I'M NOT OFFENDED OR ANYTHING
NOT OFFENDED, BUT STILL A NO?
...SORRY, I THINK I'M COMING OFF A LITTLE HARSHLY
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I THINK THAT'D BE GOOD FOR US, TOO
JUST ONE THING

I SAID SEX WAS FINE THE OTHER DAY, BUT THAT'S FOR AFTER A RELATIONSHIP'S BEEN ESTABLISHED
IF YOU LET IT GUIDE YOU BEFORE THAT, DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE JUST ACTING ON YOUR BASE INSTINCTS?
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
SUDDENLY DECIDING TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN NOW?
I THINK IT MIGHT BE THE WRONG CHOICE TO RELY WHOLLY ON ONE SIDE, WHETHER IT'S INSTINCT OR REASON
WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD UNLESS WE CONSIDER THEM BOTH
NO, THAT'S THE RATIONAL PART OF YOUR BRAIN
WELL, IT DOES FEEL KINDA SHAMELESS, TRYING TO REBOUND LIKE THIS
WELL,
HMM BUT MAYBE,

WE MET AND GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER BY CHANCE AND DATED WITHOUT GIVING IT MUCH THOUGHT
OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS NEVER REALLY A FAIRYTALE ROMANCE SOMETHING YOU COULD LOOK AT AND SAY IT WAS DESTINED TO BE
AND THEN BROKE UP BECAUSE OF THE DUMBEST THING IMAGINABLE


AND MOVE FORWARD LITTLE BY LITTLE... STEP BY STEP.
GIVE IT SOME DEEP THOUGHT WHILE ALSO FOLLOWING WHAT WE FEEL IS RIGHT,
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO TAKE A LONG HARD LOOK AT OURSELVES AND AT OUR SURROUNDINGS.

OR ELSE THERE'LL BE NO FUTURE FOR US

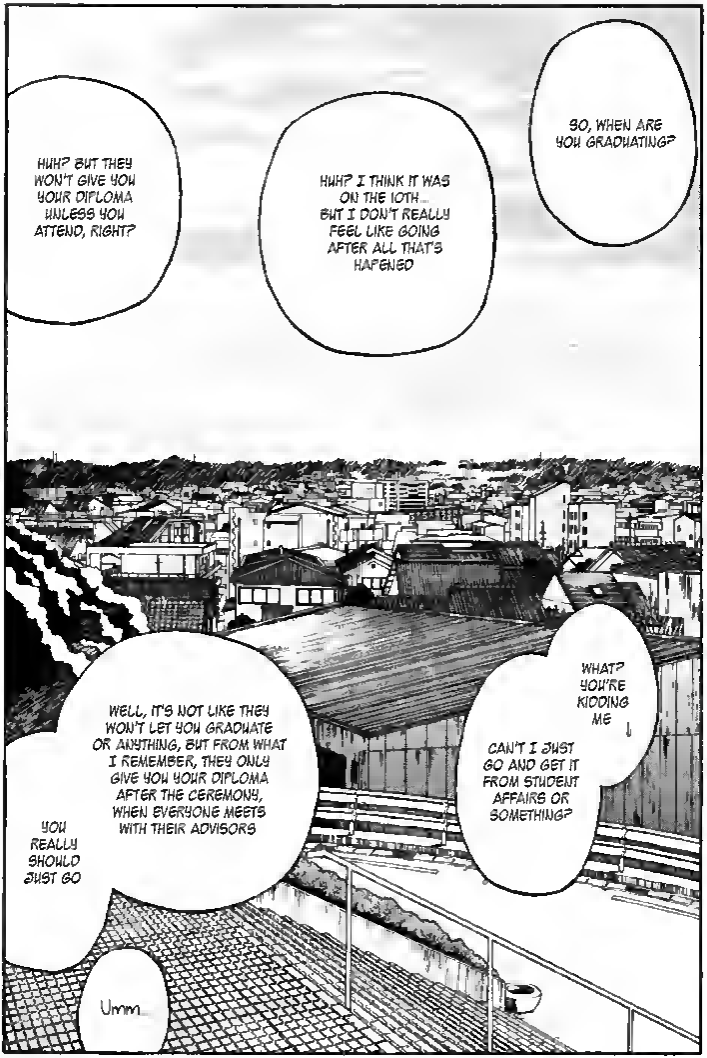
WELL, YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT, MAYBE EVEN THAT'S GETTING TOO FAR ON THE CEREBRAL SIDE OF THINGS
I'LL BE HONEST... I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT DEEPLY...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HMM, WELL...
FOR STARTERS, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
NO, WAIT... I GUESS I SHOULDN'T SAY THAT
SO IN THE END...

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT
YEAH?
FOR STARTERS?
UMM, JUST OUT OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, MS. SOMA,
MAY I INQUIRE AS TO YOUR CURRENT MOOD?
WALK WITH ME TO THE STATION
DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP, IT'S RIGHT AFTER MY PERIOD

WERE YOU HOPING FOR SOME-THING?
WELL... IF YOU DON'T WANNA THAT'S FINE WITH ME TOO
NOW THAT WE'VE DECIDED TO TRY THIS OUT, I THINK I DO WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THAT NEW EX OF YOURS
HMM?
GIVE IT SOME TIME
OKAY
YOU KNOW,
DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?
NAH, IT'S FINE, I GUESS

AAH...
LONG-DISTANCE AGAIN, HUH...

BUT I FEEL LIKE WE'RE A LITTLE MORE PREPARED FOR IT THAN WE WERE BEFORE
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT
I MEAN OUR MINDSET GOING INTO IT


SO, WHEN ARE YOU GRADUATING?
HUH? I THINK IT WAS ON THE 10TH... BUT I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE GOING AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED
HUH? BUT THEY WON'T GIVE YOU YOUR DIPLOMA UNLESS YOU ATTEND, RIGHT?
WHAT? YOU'RE KIDDING ME
CAN'T I JUST GO AND GET IT FROM STUDENT AFFAIRS OR SOMETHING?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WON'T LET YOU GRADUATE OR ANYTHING, BUT FROM WHAT I REMEMBER, THEY ONLY GIVE YOU YOUR DIPLOMA AFTER THE CEREMONY, WHEN EVERYONE MEETS WITH THEIR ADVISORS
YOU REALLY SHOULD JUST GO
Umm...